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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Executive Council Issues Statement

LD3001014691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held an extraordinary meeting on 28 January to study the developments arising from the continuation of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against sister Iraq and the national, pan-Arab, and international tasks which fall on the shoulders of the Organization and our Palestinian people in the confrontation of this aggression and the foiling of its objectives. The meeting achieved a number of results, the most of important being the following:

The continuation of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against sister Iraq and the bestial and criminal attacks on the infrastructure and utilities of Iraq—including economic, humanitarian, and civilian establishments—makes clear that the objective of the aggression is the dealing of a blow to Iraq's capabilities and the weakening of the steadfastness of the whole Arab nation, in preparation for the imposition of American-Israeli hegemony over the region, the subjugation of our Arab nation and the control of its resources, as well as the attempt to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

The continuation of the criminal aggression, to the extent of the bombardment of religious places and the holy places in noble al-Najaf, Karbala', al-Kufah, al-Kazimiyah, and al-A'zamiyah, and the damage to the heritage and values of our nation, requires the convergence of all the forces and countries in the Arab and Islamic worlds with all the free and honorable men in the world against this barbaric invasion, which deems all sanctities fair game, belittles national rights, and denies all human and civil standards.

The American-Zionist-Atlantic alliance will shoulder by itself the big responsibilities vis-a-vis the outcome of this aggression: A cultural clash and national, religious, and political conflicts in the long term, rather than the medium term. This is a premeditated sin committed by the American Administration historically, culturally, and religiously in this sensitive and geopolitical strategic region. The aggression of the United States and its allies is an aggression against the whole Arab nation, and against our Palestinian people in particular. It is also an aggression against the independence and dignity of every country in the Third World and its right to national sovereignty. This criminal aggression and its continuation shows that it goes beyond all limits, including the resolutions of the UN Security Council on which the United States relied to justify the start of the aggression against steadfast Iraq. All Arab and international forces that are eager for the preservation of the future of their peoples, and for putting an end to the American-Zionist influence and tyranny, and that strive for the preservation of international peace and security are called upon to come and work together for the confrontation of the treacherous and criminal American aggression against the people, land, spiritual sanctities, national resources, achievements, and ancient civilization of Iraq—a civilization which constitutes a shining lighthouse for human, Islamic, and Arab civilization. We call today for a firm stand by all the sincere forces in our Arab and Islamic world, and by all free and honorable forces in the world on the side of the steadfast and combatant Iraq in the confrontation of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression and to place all the capabilities with the people of Iraq, and without limit, in order to halt this barbaric and criminal aggression and achieve a just political solution to all the problems of the region and its crises, in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy and one standard.

The halting of the aggression and the revival of Arab efforts for a solution, the work for a comprehensive solution to the problems of the region within an international context, and the withdrawal of the forces of invasion of all nationalities from the Arab territories are the objectives around which the Islamic Arab masses rally. For their sake all forces sincere to the objectives of peace and justice in the whole world work. This position of struggle, of standing by combatant Iraq, its brave Army, steadfast people, and combatant leadership, leads us to confirm today that the PLO, and in the name of our Palestinian people inside and outside the homeland, adopts a principled and pan-Arab commitment in this battle in order to confront the aggression and abort its criminal objectives, in defense of sister Iraq and its combatant people and in defense of our Arab nation, its future, freedom, and pan-Arab security.

Our Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland expresses today with its mighty intifadah and heroic stand its comprehensive participation in this battle on the side of sister Iraq, in defense of national and pan-Arab objectives. The sacrifices of our people confirm everyday its firm belief in the unity of the struggle and objectives with the steadfast people of Iraq in the confrontation of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression and invasion. Our people in the occupied territories are being subjected, with the continuation of its blessed intifadah and since the start of this criminal aggression, to a fierce criminal escalation of Israeli oppression and terrorism. Israeli military forces and concentrations are imposing, on an unprecedented level, a total and continuous curfew during this period in order to starve the whole Palestinian people, paralyze all the constituents of life, and practice terrorism in its most violent forms and methods, with the aim of breaking the will of our people to stand fast and resist. All this is happening before the eyes and within the hearing of the American-Zionist-Atlantist alliance. A total blackout is imposed on all these crimes to preserve this aggressive American alliance, its course, purposes, and objectives against our Arab nation, considering it part of the total war imposed by the American invaders and aggressors and their Israeli tool against Iraq, Palestine, and all the peoples of our Arab nation.

This confirms and shows once again the size of Israeli participation as a strategic ally of America in this aggressive war and the secret and public role Israel is undertaking in this ferocious battle at all information, logistic, and military levels as well as direct participation in more than one field.

The PLO is following with great concern the things happening to Palestinian people living in Kuwait as a result of this American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression, which has inflicted heavy losses in lives and property. Bombing and destruction of civilians and population concentrations form part of it; the same aggression is intensifying against the masses of our Palestinian and Lebanese people in Lebanon and its steadfast south, which is on combat readiness against the army of Israeli occupation and its tyranny and crimes.

Our Palestinian people, despite all forms of terror and persecution, today follows with its energies and in all the fields of struggle the confrontation with the Israeli war machine, which forms part of the forces of the American and allied aggression. This struggle will continue with inflexible resolution against the Israeli occupation and the American invasion and in defense of Iraq, Palestine, and the future of the entire Arab nation.

The PLO calls on all the peoples of our nation and its dynamic forces to participate in the battle of confronting the American and allied aggression and invasion and calls for stopping it and preventing it from achieving its objectives and removing the Arab cover it enjoys politically and militarily.

A basic and pressing duty in this crucial period of our history is considered to be the rise of the patriotic Arab forces in support of Iraq and maintaining the voice of our people high over the American invaders and protecting the future of our nation and its heritage, civilization, and resources, and safeguarding the right of our Palestinian people.

Every Muslim, every free and upright Arab is today called to carry out his historic and pan-Arab, national, and religious duty. We see the dearest of all Arab capitals—Harun al-Rashid's Baghdad—being exposed to an American-Zionist-Atlantist programmed bombing and destruction within the framework of a criminal and unprecedented aggression in the history of our area and the entire world. History will not be merciful to anyone who hesitates or has any complacency in contributing with every resource to the battle of defending the fate and the rights and the sanctities which is being waged by the Iraqi people who are engaged in jihad.

The PLO follows up its work and efforts at the international level, and it calls all the forces and countries and all the international parties and organizations to take part effectively in the campaign aimed at condemning this aggressive and unjust war and to call for its immediate cessation and tackling all the issues and crises of the area within the framework of a political solution and through the international peace conference in the Gulf and Palestine. This is called for in order to reinstate peace and security in this area, and in the entire world, away from American military and economic hegemony over our area.

From here we stress the call to states that favor an Arab solution and to those countries of Europe and nonaligned states, the Soviet Union, and the PRC to undertake an effective and influential part to stop the war and aggression and to give a serious opportunity to the efforts of the political solution.

The war has affirmed the depth and the interrelationship of the issues and problems of the area and the need of our peoples and the entire world for comprehensive and just solutions in order to establish a just and comprehensive peace.

The PLO extends a salute of military brotherhood to the steadfast people of Iraq and its militant President Saddam Husayn and the valiant Iraqi Army who is today defending the honor of the Arab soil, the pan-Arab right against the invading aggressors, and the heritage of our nation and its sacred things which American aggression is trying to degrade.

The PLO, in the name of our fighting Palestinian people within and outside the homeland, affirms that this battle, whatever its cost and sacrifices, must inevitably be crowned with a strengthened victory against the aggression and against its criminal objective. The people of Palestine stand resolutely alongside the staunch Iraqi soldiers and their great nation. The banner which bears the name God is great will triumph and will remain aloft and fluttering.

In abundant measure, God will certainly aid these who aid his cause, for verily God is full of strength, exalted in might.

'Arafat Says Israel Involved in Iraq Offensive

LD2901210291 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by correspondent Christine Ockrent; in Tunis, date not given; questions asked in English, 'Arafat answers in English with superimposed French translation—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer Philippe Sannier] One has been wondering for several weeks now about the Palestinians' position in the Gulf war. Yasir 'Arafat announced his colors from the start, aligning himself deliberately with the Iraqis. Lately, the assassination of Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], a personality close to Yasir 'Arafat, created trouble. Today some ask themselves whether the PLO's unconditional support for Iraq may not compromise the Palestinians' chances in future negotiations. Yasir 'Arafat will answer questions posed by Christine Ockrent. His discourse is more pro-Iraqi than ever. There are, above all, very serious accusations against Israel and the United States, which are to be considered very carefully, as you understand, because these accusations, as you will hear, are not backed by any proof.

['Arafat] You see, I am not the spokesman of the Iraqi Government, but, as I said before this war, this mad war at this time will cause serious problems. For example, the Pentagon yesterday authorized the use of toxic gas, nerve gas, yesterday. How does one accept this?

[Ockrent] Nerve gas where?

['Arafat] Do not forget that they used certain forbidden weapons in the past like in Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

[Ockrent] But Saddam Husayn has used this more recently against the Kurds?

['Arafat] With the Kurds, but the same things were done against them by the Iraqis. [as heard] And what did they do in Vietnam? Was that a clean war? The U.S. Administration used all sorts of weapons in Vietnam. War is war.

[Ockrent] Are you disappointed by Israel's restraint and its decision not to retaliate against Iraqi attacks?

['Arafat] I have information that Israel has been totally implicated in the war from the start.

[Ockrent] How is that?

['Arafat] In various ways. Some of their planes participate in the attacks, but they do not take off from Israel.

[Ockrent] You mean to say that there are Israeli planes?

['Arafat] Yes, from U.S. bases. Moreover, there are missiles used by the Israeli Army from the Negev desert near Dimona against the western part of Iraq.

[Ockrent] Your representative to Lebanon has just said that the Palestinians are ready to start an in-depth attack against Israel if bombing continues in Iraq and if a curfew is imposed in the West Bank. Does that mean that you want to open a second front in this war, against Israel?

['Arafat] You have to remember that we are facing daily attacks by land, by sea, and from the air. They are defending themselves. They carried out a raid 10 days ago. We lost 42 people, and 66 others were injured in a Palestinian refugee camp. You know what is happening in the occupied territories? More than 12 days of total curfew. Parts of our occupied territories are witnessing famine because of the curfew, and no protest has been made in Europe and in United States against this crime against humanity.

[Ockrent] Mr. Chairman, was unconditional support for Saddam Husayn the only choice for you and your cause? Henceforth, does his defeat run the risk of becoming your own defeat?

['Arafat] It is a matter of principle. I cannot accept the presence, any presence, of a foreign country in our Arab land. Think of the masses, of the Arab street. Particularly you in Europe, think of the Arab masses. Otherwise, this war will leave an ugly legacy into the coming century.

ALF Calls for Strikes on Allied Interests

NC2901064191 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio Network in Arabic 0605 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The Central Committee of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has called on the sons of the Arab nation and all the honorable and liberal people in the world to participate in the honor of responding to the American-Zionist aggression on Iraq. In a statement, the front called for destroying the facilities and interests of the imperialist aggression through heroic and competent fedayeen operations.

The statement said: Since the ALF declares that all its heroic fighters inside and outside the occupied territories and all the sons of the Palestinian people stand in one rank alongside Iraq to strike Zionist interests, all the dens and interests of the Americans and their Western allies, and the nation's traitors and agents will be targets of the heroic fighters and their painful strikes.

The ALF asked Arab parties and forces as well as unions and federations in the Arab world to break their silence and move on to a situation of real action to confront imperialism and strike all aggressive interests inside and outside the Arab world.

In its statement, the ALF saluted the struggler Arab knight Saddam Husayn as he leads the gathering of the believers to confront infidelity, vileness, and aggression.

DFLP Leader Hawatimah Discusses Gulf Crisis

LD2901160991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1239 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by reporter Ibrahim Ziouage, place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The war in the Middle East goes beyond the traditional meaning of the word war, into the first of the gaps the West is trying to open with a view to imposing a new international order. In this crucial time, the citizens ask a number of questions, including the following: How is the war going, and what will the map look like after the war? These questions were asked by our colleague, Ibrahim Ziouage, of one of the figures in the Arab struggle, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. As is customary, our interviews with Hawatimah are always useful and comprehensive. We leave you now with Hawatimah and colleague Ziouage.

[Ziouage] Mr. Hawatimah. It is not customary for us to start a press interview on the basis of a previous press interview. In a previous statement to Algerian national radio, you affirmed that war will break out in the Gulf, and now the war has broken out there. You have also affirmed that Iraq will stand fast for six to 12 months, and now the U.S. and Western sources are affirming that. Today a war is raging between Iraq and the Western coalition led by the United States. What is your analysis of the political and military situation in light of this war, and what do you expect?

[Hawatimah] I wish to begin by saying that Western circles wanted this war to be a lightning war, a blitzkrieg, ending in few days. Now these same Western circles, headed by Bush, say that the blitzkrieg has ended in failure, and that the war has now become a long war. In other words, they began it as a technological, lightning, blitzkrieg war, but now it has turned into a conventional war.

The war is being fought by all technological means, and has not yet started on the ground. For this reason we expect the actual heating up of the war to occur in ground operations, between armies numbering over 1.5 million men, standing face to face. For this reason wide rivers of blood await all.

We did not want this war. Indeed, we wanted to win the battle of peace. We have done all we could to win the battle of peace, in reaching a balanced political solution for the Gulf crisis, linking together the various crises in the region within the framework of an international conference for security and comprehensive peace, in which all world countries with interests in the Gulf and the Middle East region, as well as all parties to the Gulf conflicts, including Iran and Yemen, all parties to the Middle East conflict would participate, so that we may find balanced solutions for all the regional crises on the basis of international legitimacy.

Unfortunately, U.S. circles precisely obstructed all the initiatives made prior to the breakout of the war: Palestinian, Algerian, Libyan, Yemeni, Jordanian, and Palestinian initiatives, as well as European, Soviet, and Chinese initiatives. The last was the initiative submitted to the the UN Security Council by the nonaligned countries to adopt a resolution calling for the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference, with the participation of the five big powers and all parties to the Middle East conflict, and with the implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions. Again, the United States obstructed this resolution and threatened to use the veto if the nonaligned countries persisted in putting their motion to the vote. A compromise was reached that was both startling and tragic, proving the double standard basis and hypocrisy of U.S. policy, or what they call the double standard [previous two words in English] of U.S. policy.

The United States thus rejected everything by the UN Security Council in this regard, and the matter was confined to a mere presidential statement issued by the president of the UN Security Council, which is not binding and only has a moral nature.

Thus, all solutions aimed at creating a balance leading to the implementation of international legitimacy were obstructed. Now the war has started, and it is evident that it will be a long war. Hot days, indeed hot weeks and perhaps hot months, await us.

What the United States wants from this war, first and foremost, is essentially the complete destruction of Iraq's military, political, and technological power and advancement, paralysis of its political willpower, and perhaps even the decimation of Iraq. This is because Iraq's neighbors have numerous ambitions aimed at the decimation and balkanization of Iraqi territory.

Why? Because America has rejected, and still rejects, that Iraq can be a partner in negotiations leading to solutions in the Middle East region. The U.S. was adamant, until the outset of the Gulf crisis on 2 August, that the Middle East problem could only be resolved through a U.S. viewpoint. It rejected a peace conference on the Middle East, which the United Nations has repeatedly called for, and was determined to exclude the other four big powers and keep the solution exclusively for the U.S. Administration. It insisted on excluding all Arab countries concerned with the conflict, relying exclusively on the Egypt of Camp David. It ended its talks with the whole world, including U.S.-Palestinian talks, rejected negotiations with the PLO, and insisted on negotiating with a Palestinian delegation from inside Palestinian territories representing the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza strip, which would negotiate with the Israeli Interior Ministry along the lines of Baker's initiative—on elections for inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as an elected delegation that would negotiate with the Israeli Government on autonomy under Israeli occupation, in accordance with the Camp David accord—a plan that came to be known as the Baker and Shamir plan.

Then the Gulf crisis erupted—war is now under way. The United States wants to destroy Iraq so as to be able to redraw the map of the Middle East and the Gulf in accordance with its interests and with the United States's imperial point of view. It wants a map which would exactly fit U.S. plans—in other words it wants total hegemony over oil sources; it seeks total control over oil pipelines so as to extend its hegemony over its terminals in the Red Sea and in the Mediterranean. Why? Because this will enable the U.S. Administration to redraw the map of the Gulf and the Middle East in accordance with U.S. interests of hegemony, including resolving the Palestinian problem in accordance with the U.S. solution, which the United States has tried to implement since the beginning of the three-year heroic intifadah and during the 20-month U.S. dialogue with the world, including the U.S.-Palestinian dialgue, in imposing a solution based on the Baker and Shamir plan.

In other words, it is the imposition of a series of U.S. solutions to the problems of the Gulf and the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, through which the United States would establish an empire in our region and would install the Camp David Egypt as leader of the Arab world, in accordance with this geopolitical map and oil map. Such U.S. hegemony over the oil of the Middle East would enable the U.S. Administration to rearrange the new international order that is being sought following the conclusion of the European security and cooperation summit held recently in Paris. This summit led to ending the cold war and Yalta, and immediately beginning a hot war against us in the Gulf and Middle East region, against the Arabs.

The objective is for the United States to get its hands on the oil so as not only to rule the new map in the Middle East and the Gulf, in accordance with U.S. solutions, and to resolve the Palestinian question in the form of self-rule under Israeli occupation in accordance with the Camp David accords, but also to keep a grip on the throats of the European and Japanese economics and put pressure on the Soviet Union, China, and the Third World. In the end it is the formation of a new world with one pole, one horn, in which the United States alone can ram whomever its wants among the states of the world, without any control.

This is the alternative to the international order for which we are fighting in the Arab world and the Third World. We sons of the South are fighting for an international order; on our side are many forces of world public opinion, forces of democracy and peace in the world, especially in Europe, the Soviet Union, China, and even democratic and peace forces inside the United States. They are on our side, for a new international order with many poles which would not be under the hegemony of the United States alone.

This is how matters are now going, at the hands of the U.S. administration and the forces in alliance with it.

At the same time, we must say that in order to push matters in this direction, they are now seeking to get Turkey to enter the war and open up a second land front against Iraq. [passage omitted]

They are waiting for Israel to play a qualitative role, and its participation would be to open up a land front against Iraq. This is why Israel is now imposing a full curfew on our people in the occupied lands, and is putting two million people in a big jail, daily, so that they are not able to form human shields in the face of the Israeli expansionist, occupation forces, when the signal comes from the Pentagon for the government of Israel to undertake an expansionist and colonial intervention, storm the West Bank, invade Jordanian territories, and gain Iraqi territory. [passage omitted]

Those who sent their armies to the side of the U.S. Army ought to turn their guns to the chests of the allied U.S. and Western forces—remember that this United States is the one that has been backing Israel for four decades, and remember that this United States is the one that is linked to Israel with a strategic cooperation agreement. They must also remember it was this United States that has impeded implementation of the UN legitimacy resolutions, in support of Israel, for more than 40 years. [passage omitted]

For this reason, we say unambiguously there is also another map in the stage of developments in the Gulf region and the Middle East, namely the map of the struggling peoples. This map depends to a large extent on the steadfastness of brave Iraq, the development of the Palestinian intifadah, opening a Palestinian fedayeen front in southern Lebanon, in conjunction with the national Lebanese forces, against the Israeli forces, bolstering valiant Jordan's steadfastness in the face of U.S. pressure and Israeli expansionist threats, and the necessary Arab activities at the level of the peoples, governments, and the world's public for putting a speedy end to the war.

Americans, take your hands off brave Iraq, and you, Israelis, leave Palestinian territory, the Syrian Golan, and southern Lebanon. At the same time, all forms of support should be given to brave Iraq, steadfast Jordan, and the valiant intifadah. We can then prolong the war until we create the favorable international and regional political conditions to halt the war and aggression, return to the negotiation table to seek balanced political solutions to the crisis in the region, and to hold an international conference on security and a comprehensive peace.

Such a conference would be akin to the international conference held to discuss the question of Cambodia and southeast Asia, in which all parties to the conflict—international, local, and regional—took part. Likewise, we want a conference on security and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the Gulf, in which all parties to the conflict, including even international parties, participate, so that we may find balanced, comprehensive solutions guaranteeing the implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions in respect of all the crises and problems of the region.

The United States, prior to the outbreak of the war, stated that there was no link between the Palestine question and the Gulf crisis—not even a political link—and it has obstructed the nonaligned states' resolution in this respect in the UN Security Council. This link has now become clear as a result of the actions by the United States and Israel, which imposed a curfew on all Palestinians in the occupied territories, and also as a result of the military operations that are now taking place and those that will follow in the coming weeks. This link has become political and organic, and consequently the solution will lie in continuing our steadfastness until we create the favorable conditions to force the United States to accept the need to halt aggression and the destruction of Iraq, to halt Israeli expansionism, to ensure full attendance at an international conference on security and comprehensive peace, in order that we may draw up a new map of the Middle East meeting the people's ambitions of self-determination, independence, and democracy, while at the same time meeting the balanced interests of all countries with an interest in energy, markets, and cultural relations in the Mediterranean.

[Ziouage] This depends on the results of the war. Iraq has now linked, politically and organically, the Gulf crisis and the present Gulf war and the Palestine question. Iraq has used missiles to attack Zionist targets in the occupied territories. Do you have any information about these targets, particularly because the western media claim them to be exclusively civilian targets?

[Hawatimah] Whether or not Western media claimed or made this claim concerning this issue, what should be made clear is that Baghdad is the capital of an Arab state and that it is being destroyed completely and systematically according to a schedule. The bombing embraces all Iraqi towns, including civilian populated areas crowded with people. Eighteen million people in Iraq are today exposed to wholesale killing. The towns and villages of Iraq are today exposed to the savage and barbaric bombing of civilians; the bombing is not only against military positions and targets.

Israel is occupying Palestinian soil and daily is killing the people of the uprising, spilling our blood like rivers.

Human rights, according to the West, are being contravened. They put forward only their point of view. For example, they see the distribution of 20 aggressor pilots at strategic, vital industrial places and installations as contravening the Geneva conventions of 1949 on human rights, while they forget the rights of 2 million Palestinians under 23 years of occupation, and 3 million Palestinians who have been homeless in refugee camps in Arab and in other countries for 40 years. They do not see all this. Therefore, when they say that the missiles that fall on Israeli towns fall on populated areas, we would say: It is a tit for tat. These missiles fall on military targets and they fall on civilian places, similar to the missiles falling on Iraqi territory. You know that the allied imperialist air forces, during 20,000 sorties, bombed Iraqi towns, including the capital, Baghdad. This is compared to the few missiles that have fallen on Israeli towns. For the first time since 1948 [words indistinct] Israel does not stop to think about human rights and the rights of our people to self-determination.

We all must have seen the Algerian marches and demonstrations, and how the Algerian youth cried out in one voice: "O beloved Iraq, strike, strike Tel Aviv." In saying this, they speak for all peoples, all the masses, and all peace-loving forces rejecting surrender. They express the old pains and wounds that are still bleeding. These blows against Israeli towns somehow avenge the deep and bleeding Palestinian and Arab wounds, and the wounds of peoples of the Third World obtained from Israeli Zionist imperialist hegemony. Consequently, Israel and the Western powers must fully understand that the way of the thorn will cease forthwith when aggression—manifested by Israeli occupation of our country, and aggression against Iraq—ceases, and when everyone comes to the negotiating table to implement a comprehensive peace and security for all, and the right of all to live. The guarantees will be formulated by a comprehensive peace and security conference on the basis of legal international resolutions.

[Ziouage] The Tel Aviv Administration did not reply to the Iraqi attacks. Western media have been circulating reports about an Israeli retaliation, saying that Tel Aviv is planning this retaliatory strike. What form, in your opinion, will such a strike take?

[Hawatimah] We say in very frank and clear language that any Israeli retaliatory blow can only be a small part of the overall destructive blows now taking place against Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, and other Iraqi cities. [passage omitted] Whether or not Israeli cities are hit with Iraqi missiles, there has always been sympathy on the part of western colonial circles in Europe and the United States for Israeli fascist expansionism. Also, the Zionist lobby throughout the world, especially in the United States, has been doing its work, both during peace and war.

There is also an agreement on strategic cooperation between Israel and the U.S. Administration—military, political security, and strategic cooperation. Whether these additional excuses were put forward or not, these advanced technological weapons have always found their way to Israel, even without the agreement signed recently with the U.S. Administration concerning stockpiling U.S. strategic arms and ammunition reserves in Israel for use in the event of war. This has actually happened.

Do you remember the aircraft carrier Saratoga being at Haifa days before the start of the war? Twenty of its sailors were lost from a launch when returning from a night out in Tel Aviv. The launch foundered and overturned. Utilizing this, Israel attempted to break the diplomatic isolation around it and to benefit from more advanced weapons; this is an ongoing operation, whether missiles fall on Israeli towns or not.

Against this, we have to see the other side of this operation. The world today is beginning to realize—whether the world says this publicly or not—that the crises in the area are interlinked: the Gulf crisis and the Midle East crisis are interlinked, and particularly the Palestinian issue. For this reason, once again, the question emerges before the entire world; namely that there is no solution to the crises except by interlinking them within the framework of implementing the international resolutions.

Also—before any missile fell on Israel—Israel was clinging to all the occupied Palestinian soil, as well as southern Lebanon. It rejects the implementation of the legal international resolution, and keeps saying its famous nos: No to self-determination; no to an independent state; no to the PLO; no to the return of Arab Jerusalem; and no to an international peace conference on the Middle East. Indeed, more than this. From the moment the war began and before any missile had struck any town in Israel, Israel declared a total curfew and placed 2 million people—all our people—under occupation, in a large prison. It imposed the curfew because it fully realizes that the crises are interlinked.

[Ziouage] The Palestinian uprising, it seems, is in a temporary truce, and there are reports that Palestinians could decide the conflict and change the course of the war if they escalated the uprising at this time when some Arab regimes face capitulation. What is your view, Mr. Hawatimah?

[Hawatimah] I say again in clear langauge: It is not true and it is gravely unjust to say that the Palestinian uprising is in a state of truce. The uprising has continued for three years and entered its fourth year a few days ago. It will continue because its national, economic, and social elements are objective and cannot be eliminated by suppression. This has been understood by Israel's leaders, particularly Israel's generals, from [Yitzhaq] Rabin to Dan Shomron, the current chief of staff, who have tried to liquidate the uprising by military oppression using advanced technological and methodical means. All failed, and these generals demanded that the Israeli Government search for political solutions to the Palestinian problem, as the military solutions lead nowhere. This means in clear language that the uprising continues.

Second, we have to promote the uprising, because its promotion will contribute toward forming human shields in the face of the Israeli forces, barring their attempts to occupy Jordanian territory and opening a new land front against Iraq.

Third, a major shortcoming, for which the Arab countries bear responsibility, is that in June 1988 an uprising summit was held in Algiers at the invitation of brother President Chadli Bendjedid. It was decided that Arab countries allocate $23 million each month to the uprising. This $43 million [figure as heard] was not paid by the rich oil-producing countries, because they were afraid of an escalation of the uprising and wished to prevent the uprising from deciding the conflict. Consequently, we tried to make this humble and small amount cover the cost of living, bread, for 250,000 working families. There are 180,000 Palestinian laborers in Israeli firms, and 75,000 working in the Palestinian West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. It was possible to cover the cost of their daily life so that they could declare general national civil disobedience—a general strike. This meant 250,000 Palestinian workers in the streets each day, carrying stones and Molotov cocktails in the face of the Israeli occupation, in addition to the students, youths, the elderly, and businessmen staging strikes. This means that the Israeli industrial machine will suffer major problems, as 180,000 Palestinian workers are unemployed. This will create acute social tensions. [passage omitted]

We must develop the Palestinian fedayeen resistance in southern Lebanon. I call upon all PLO member factions to join with the Lebanese national forces in staging fedayeen operations against the Zionist invaders in southern Lebanon, in order to preoccupy a large part of the Israeli Army, keeping it away from the battlefront with Iraq.

I call upon all PLO factions—particularly those which have not yet fired one single bullet against the occupation forces—to join in the fedayeen operations in southern Lebanon, and in the heart of Israel, so that we do not permit the Israeli forces to be free to move across occupied Palestinian territory into Jordanian territory, and then to Iraqi territory.

I think the war will be a long one. Its course cannot be decided in a matter of days. Iraq's steadfastness; the development of the intifadah; the fedayeen operations from southern Lebanon; the steadfastness of the brave Jordanian people; and the Arab activities, which should move from the stage of demonstrations to that of the exertion of pressure on their governments, to offering tangible support to Iraq, the intifadah, and Jordan, and to calling upon the Arab countries of the East, which have forces in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, to withdraw their forces, train their guns on the coalition forces, which are the hostile and aggressor against Iraq, as well as toward Israeli expansionists.

We in the DFLP also call for a collective joint Arab action at the United Nations and the UN Security Council, and with Europe, the USSR and China, to make a new initiative calling for the immediate cessation of the war and aggression, and the return to the negotiation table in order to reach balanced political solutions.

Furthermore, we in the DFLP today call upon all Arab countries which say no to war and aggression to reject the boycott of Iraq, and to resume their full relations with Iraq and say in clear words: We must provide medicine, food, and all that we can provide to help Iraq.

We in the DFLP have also called on all Arab countries which say no to war and aggression, to reject the boycott of Iraq, and to resume full relations with Iraq and to say in clear language: We have to offer medicine and food to Iraq and everything we can help with, because the U.S. and allied forces have bypassed the U.N. Security Council resolutions regarding the question of Kuwait and are now striking the entire territory of Iraq. It has become clear that their objective was not Kuwait nor the ex-amirs of Kuwait, but the destruction of Iraq so that it will be crossed out of the negotiations on Middle East questions. [passage indistinct] The selective theory is destructive and forms a kind of double standard, as is the cast of the U.S. policy.

[Ziouage] You have talked about part of the Palestinian struggle to face up to this imperialist-Zionist onslaught in depth, and about the implementation of international legitimacy superficially. The allied regimes fear fedayeen operations against their interests or within their states.

Does the DFLP deem it necessary to spread the war or to keep the war limited to the Gulf region?

[Hawatimah] The U.S. Administration and the forces allied with it have themselves spread the war to the entire Arab nation and the peoples of the Third World, because the United States insists on drawing the map of the Gulf and of the Middle East according to its U.S. imperialist ambitions, and to distribute spheres of influence among the allied countries. It also wants to tighten its grip on the Third World to control its raw materials, oil, gas, and markets. Hence, it is responsible for spreading the war; it is not us who are spreading the war. This is first.

Second, we believe that every people of the Arab nation has its own duties, that it is not possible for any people to perform the duties of other peoples. The Palestinian people cannot act on behalf of the people of Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Jordan, or any other Arab people. Therefore, every Arab people has to assume its role in this battle against the allied colonial forces which want to destroy Iraq and impose capitulative solutions to the Palestinian question.

This, in clear language, means that each and every Arab people is called upon to besiege and strike at U.S., British, and French interests wherever their hands can reach. The Arab minorities spread out in this world also have duties in this regard. [passage omitted]

In clear language, this means that there is no one super people and that the others are not super peoples. All peoples are militant, and all peoples have their experience in the struggle and every people has to throw its capability into this field, because the imperialists have generalized the war on the entire Third World. It is the war of the North against the South. It is a civilizational war, a cultural war, a war by which the developed industrial north wants to divide and distribute countries and influence in the Arab world and among the countries of the Third World according to its own interests and not according to international legitimacy, human rights, and the right of peoples to self-determination and their democratic options.

[Ziouage] A number of operations were recently carried out against the imperialist interests of the powers participating in this war. Can we consider this to be a popular reaction against this onslaught or an organized operation with the hands of some factions of the Arab struggle in them?

[Hawatimah] Personally and in clear language, I believe they are a series of spontaneous operations which express the feeling of the masses—not only the Arab, by the way, but also the feelings of the European masses and people—who believe in peace and are against war and aggression on the Third World as reflected at present by the war on Iraq and in the Gulf and Middle East. You might have heard that a number of Greek and British organizations have claimed responsibility for those actions against a number of U.S. and NATO installations and a number of installations of the Gulf states which invited foreign forces to their countries after four generations of Arab struggle against colonialism and neocolonialism. We have returned now to the old colonialism in the form of the return of foreign forces, military bases, and military alliance to the Arab countries. The sacrifices of four generations have been wiped out of the dictionaries of those reactionary regimes. At the same time those reactionary countries are at present financing the entire aggressive war with tens of billions of dollars. [passage omitted]

[Ziouage] After more than 10 days since the beginning of the war, there have been a number of indications confirming that the political map of the Arab world, or perhaps of the world in general, will change. How do you see that?

[Hawatimah] I would like to remind everyone of an extremely important speech which many may not be aware of. It was delivered by Gorbachev during the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, by which the cold war was ended, and Mitterrand said that Yalta was over. Gorbachev said: What is happening now in the Gulf and in the Middle East threatens the balkanization of the Arab countries and their Lebanonization. Balkanization means the gradual crumbling of the Arab countries. The consequences would be to reconsider the map of the Arab countries and the map of each and every Arab country with the aim of partitioning it into several states. From this angle comes the remarks by Turgut Ozal, president of the Turkish Republic, a week ago, and three days after the beginning of the war; namely, that it is not possible to guarantee the territorial integrity of Iraq, alluding this to chauvinistic pan-Turkish ambitions in the Iraqi territories. I think you know that Turkey regards Karkuk as one of its sources, and next to Karkuk oil it puts $1. In other words, it still considers Karkuk to be a part of Turkey. [passage omitted]

A number of things in the new map depend on the development of the war currently raging in the Gulf and on its interactions. They want it as another 1967, stamped by the seal of the imperialists; and we want it another 1956, stamped by the seal of the peoples; toward settlements based on the rule of international legitimacy and resolutions to ensure society and peace for all peoples and states of the Middle East and the Gulf and their interlinkage; toward ensuring the balanced interests of all countries of the world in energy, markets, and culture in the Mediterranean basin and particularly in the Gulf region, where 60 percent of world oil reserves lie.

DFLP Urges Citizens To Escalate Intifadah

JN2901114091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Jan 91 p 12

[Text] Amman—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has called on the Palestinian citizens in the occupied State of Palestine to break the curfew and escalate the intifadah in the face of the Israeli enemy.

It also called for clashing with and using arms against the Israeli enemy whenever possible and urged all the Palestinian fighters in southern Lebanon to cooperate with the fighters of the nationalist and Islamic Lebanese forces and confront the Israeli enemy with arms and fire in order to open a new front with the enemy forces and Zionism. The DFLP also called on the Arab countries contributing to the forces of the alliance to withdraw their forces from the battlefield and to support fraternal Iraq.

Official in Kuwait Killed in Air Bombardment

NC2901125491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] In Tunis, it has been learned from a source close to the PLO that the secretary general of the Fatah Movement in Kuwait, known as Abu-Ziyad [name as heard], was killed in the coalition bombardment of Kuwait yesterday evening.

MENA Report Ambush

NC2901193791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, has said that Shafiq Qiblawi [name as received], also known as Abu-Ziyad, the secretary general of Fatah in Kuwait, was shot dead this morning.

Al-Qidrah said the Palestinian official was ambushed in front of his Kuwaiti home when gunmen opened fire from a speeding minibus.

KUNA Describes Assassination

LD3001112991 London KUNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Jan—The International Organization for Solidarity with Kuwait issued a statement from inside Kuwait today saying that one of the prominent PLO personalities, Rafiq Shafiq [name as received], alias Abu-Ziyad, was assassinated in Kuwait at 0900 yesterday as he was leaving his house.

The statement adds that the assassination took place near a restaurant close to Abu-Ziyad's house. He was hit by the first shot then the two assailants clashed with his two bodyguards, killing them, and then turned against Abu-Ziyad and killed him with a bullet fire at his head.

The two culprits the fled in a yellow Mitsubishi [vehicle] and disappeared; nothing is known about them.

No organization has announced responsibility for the incident, which is believed to fall within the framework of liquidations of leaderships and wings of the PLO carried out by these leaderships and wings among themselves.

Article Says Israel Plans 'Arafat 'Elimination'

LD2901135591 Rabat MAP in English 1310 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, Jan. 29 (MAP)—Israeli intelligence have worked out lately schemes to eliminate Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, Tunisian weekly AL-DJEMHURA wrote in its Saturday release.

The elimination of 'Arafat has two objectives: one is psychological whereas the other is political, the weekly said quoting a source close to the Palestinian leader.

On the psychological level, the plot seeks to assuring the Israeli public opinion, particularly after the strikes of the Iraqi Scud missiles, that Zionist state is the most powerful in the region and that its borders are inviolable, AL-DJEMHURA said.

On the political level, the Israeli scheme falls in the framework of the eliminations of the brains of the Palestinian organization (PLO) or of those who have gained an international stature as President 'Arafat regarding the international peace conference on the Middle East.

The command appointed to carry out the assassination of 'Arafat received orders to give a special interest as to the choice of the capital and place of the murder. Exploding 'Arafat's plane while on board is one of the possibilities included in the Israeli intelligence service plan, the weekly said.

Algeria

Hamrouche Outlines 'Unchanging Position' on Gulf

LD2901115991 Algiers APS in English 1026 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 29 Jan (APS)—The head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, made a speech Monday on the closing session of the day of study on the assessement of the program of imports of equipments devoted to youth. The head of government also dealt with a number of points such as the educational system, the global reforms undertaken in Algeria, as well as the unchanging position of Algeria concerning the Gulf war and the Palestinian question.

In this context, Hamrouche underlined the importance of the process of youth insertion and the readiness of the government to help them. He added that the executive power is here to help the youth and that the latter have shown that they are capable of taking care of themselves.

After recalling that the operation of youth insertion requires the contribution of the educational system, Hamrouche said this system "necessitates a clarification and a reconstruction of some points". This system, he added, must include the sector of training and the university as it has been defined by reforms.

These reforms, the head of government said, are not static They can evolve according to activities of youth. They are aimed at providing the modern instruments to a society in constant evolution. Moreover, the head of government noted that these reforms are the prolonging of the challenge overcome by Algeria at the international level so as to avoid the marginalization and the imposed solutions. He also recalled that the ongoing reforms are but a landmark which is part of the historical continuity of the great realizations of the revolution of November 1, 1954.

After recalling that Algeria has its foreign position from the November 1 revolution, Mouloud Hamrouche underlined that the position of Algeria concerning the Gulf war has been clearly expressed by the president of the republic on various occasions thus denying statements which said Algeria has adopted an ambigous and neutral position dictated by economic or financial interests.

Algeria, he said, can not have such a position as it has always had firm positions it defends and which are the result of a deep conviction. Algeria has always sided with peoples struggling for the recovery of their legitimate rights and refuse the use of force in any case, the annexation of territories or the modification of frontiers inherited from the colonial era. These are principles which are the basis of the position of Algeria concerning the invasion of Kuwait.

The head of government reaffirmed that Algeria has never had a neutral position concerning the Gulf crisis but remains independent in all its positions even if it imposes the will of some Arab parts. Algeria, he said, can not adopt a position which contradicts its fundamental principles which forbid us to treat according to a logics of interests or circumstances. [sentence as received] Algeria, which has been against the invasion of Kuwait, he said was also against the presence of foreign forces in the area which constitutes a threat against the independence of Gulf countries and the beginning of a war. The first loser in this war, Hamrouche said, is the cause of the Palestinian people which is the main concern of the Arabs and Muslims.

In this context, he recalled that the Iraq-Iran war was a pretext to destroy the Iranian revolution. The world, he said, is witnessing deep changes and we must remain vigilant. Hamrouche pointed out that Algeria has asked for the end of the war in the Gulf and which is aimed at the destruction of Iraq. The position of Algeria in this context, is the result of convictions of the Algerian people and their refusal of the logics of war. In this context, he warned against the tendentious statements and maneuvres which are aimed at weakening the will of Algeria, as the position of Algeria at the international level is that of its people.

Demonstrators Protest War, Urge Peaceful Solution

LD2901132491 Algiers APS in English 1153 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 29 Jan (APS)—Iraqi support demonstrations took place Monday all over Algeria, responding to national parties and organizations. At the end of the march organized by the National Organization of Algerian Lawyers to denounce aggression against Iraq and demand a fair international law that could be applied to all, the participants delivered to the UN representative in Algiers a message to Javier Perez de Cuellar. Algerian lawyers stated this march is a call for a peaceful solution through dialogue and an urge to all international organizations and the UN to act in favour of peace in that region to ward off the extermination of Iraqi people.

Furthermore university history teachers addressed an open letter to the UNESCO director general related to the future of Iraq universal civilizational patrimony after allied forces against Iraq. [sentence as received] They voiced "their concern and fear of this universal patrimony's destruction insisting that Iraq does possess the biggest world surface of archeological sites whose origins go back to the beginning of history. [No close quotes as received]

Iraq is undoubtably the source of civilizations where Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Chaldean, and Muslim civilizations and demands that all this human patrimony should be preserved and its protection imposed.

The letter added that international accords among which the Hague accord of 1954 stipulates the universal patrimony protection. However coalition forces against Iraq, through their barbarian acts, do not respect these accords and pretend defending and applying international law.

Allied War Casualties 'Buried Secretly' in Crete

LD2901131891 Algiers APS in English 1146 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 29 Jan (APS)—The Western soldiers who die during the ongoing Gulf war are regularly evacuated from Saudi Arabia to Djibouti in British planes and in a second step from this country to the Crete island where they are buried secretly according to soldiers of the allied forces on the Iraqi-Saudi border.

The United States, Saudi Arabia and other member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council follow their secret campaign towards various countries and international organizations loving peace and justice to counter the peace will animating them and to prevent at the same time any diplomatic initiative to lead to a negotiated solution and a cease-fire that would translate the consensus reached by the majority of the international community.

Arab executives, mainly the Maghreb ones working in civilian services in Saudi Arabia, have been sent by forces to the Saudi-Kuwaiti border and put at the disposal of the allied forces logistics service who are at the front lines.

A number of Saudi dailies are edited by retired propagandist editors of the Egyptian Army who arrived in Saudi Arabia soon after the beginning of the war, an informed source in Riyadh said. The "Patriot" antimissiles, used by the U.S. forces for the interception and destruction of Iraqi missiles in Saudi Arabia and Israel are less efficient than expected. The exact number of Israeli fighter planes taking part in the Gulf war in the frame of allied forces serving in Saudi Arabia is well 64. [as received]

According to the former chief of the Israeli intelligence service (Mosad) the military strategy used by Iraq will lead the allied forces into an undetermined war that will be costly and exhausting. This war may also lead to an American defeat.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Gives Bush Mubarak Letter

NC2901214391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] U.S. President George Bush today received a letter from President Husni Mubarak on the situation in the Gulf and Middle East developments. The letter was handed over by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the beginning of the meeting held at the White House this evening. Attending the meeting were Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, state minister for cabinet affairs, and Mr. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, Egypt's ambassador in Washington.

'Abd-al-Majid on Egyptian Efforts To Prevent War

PM2901101191 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Jan 91 p 6

[Muhammad al-Mukhtar, Mahmud Nafadi, and Mustafa 'Abd-al-Ghaffar report: " 'Abd-al-Majid Says at Expanded Meeting for People's Assembly Committees: Egypt's Position Stems From Its Commitments to Right And Justice"]

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that all the efforts exerted to prevent the outbreak of the war were smashed on the rock of Iraqi rejection, which forced the international community to use armed force to implement the numerous Security Council resolutions.

This was mentioned in a statement delivered yesterday by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at a joint meeting for the People's Assembly General Committee with the Arab Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and National Security Committees under Dr. Fathi Surur.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that his address complemented his address to these committees on 13 January in which he reviewed the causes and background of the crisis and the Egyptian position on it. Events have developed very rapidly since that meeting.

He added: Egypt made extensive moves in the days preceding the deadline specified in Security Council Resolution 678 to spare the region a devastating and fierce war. Many officials and figures who carry weight at the Arab and international levels participated in those efforts. But all the efforts were smashed on the rock of Iraqi rejection. Thus the international community was forced to resort to armed force.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid cited the extensive efforts exerted by President Husni Mubarak to spare the Iraqi people and the peoples of the region the dangers and devastation of war. He addressed his 26th appeal before the deadline ended on the evening of 15 January.

He said that the committees were in possession of a detailed report on those appeals. He also cited the statement of the People's Assembly Joint Committee issued on 13 January which called on the Iraqi president to spare the Iraqi people and the Arab nation the horrors of a devastating war.

He said: One person is gambling on the destiny of a whole people. And the fate of a whole nation is being determined in these crucial moments.

He also emphasized that Egypt's position stems from principled commitments to right and justice. It calls for the need for Iraq to respond to the Security Council resolutions and totally and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Kuwait in preparation for liberating Kuwait and restoring Kuwaiti legitimacy.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid concluded his statement by saying: Our region is today desperately in need of peace to ensure a better tomorrow for its sons.

17 Iraqi-Backed 'Terrorists' Seized Since 2 Aug

NC3001133891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd- al-Halim Musa announced that security services have arrested 17 terrorists since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. He said that these terrorists attempted to infiltrate the country through various points to carry out acts of sabotage and terrorism in Egypt in retaliation for the country's stand on this brutal invasion.

In statements he made today to correspondents following the opening of the new personnel building at the drug combat department [words indistinct], the interior minister said that these terrorists belong to eight known terrorist organizations and include Iraqis, Palestinians, and other nationalities. Plans for the terrorist acts they were tasked with carrying out in Egypt, along with $42,000 dollars, were also seized from them. He said that the Iraqi regime financed these groups.

Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa added that, with God's grace and because of their alertness at all entry points, the security organs succeeded in foiling these terrorist elements' attempts to infiltrate the country and their plans. He noted that seven automatic weapons, some hand grenades, and ammunition were seized from elements within the country that possibly support these sabotage groups and which sought to facilitate these acts of terror.

The interior minister refused to reveal the identity of these internal elements, but stressed that the security organs are lying in wait for them until they are arrested and their plots exposed.

He praised the positive cooperation between the citizens and the security services to secure the domestic front at these critical times facing the Arab nation, in view of the developments in the Gulf war.

International Effort Against Gulf Pollution Urged

PM3001113691 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Jan 91 p 6

[Muhammad Isma'il report: "Dr. Butrus Ghali at International Press Conference: No Connection Between Liberation of Kuwait and Destruction of Iraq; Intensive Contacts To Combat Gulf Pollution"]

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali has confirmed that Egypt is holding worldwide contacts with friendly foreign states, the United Nations, and international environmental organizations to combat the danger resulting from Gulf pollution and to enhance cooperation among these states and international organizations in order to to avert this threat.

At an international press conference yesterday at the information authority—attended by the authority's chairman, Mamduh al-Biltaji, and Arab and foreign press and agency correspondents in Cairo— Dr. Ghali said that this region was subjected to similar pollution during the Iraq-Iran war and that the international community was able to tackle that.

He expressed the hope that the world states would, through cooperation, succeed in dealing with the pollution threat to the region's states.

He pointed out that Egypt sided with the international coalition formed in accordance with Security Council resolution 678 with the aim of liberating Kuwait.

Egypt, he added, pays special attention to the Palestinian problem and hopes to mobilize international efforts for the settlement of that issue immediately after the liberation of Kuwait. He noted that contacts with the PLO to that end were continuing.

He remarked that he could not say that Israel would join the war against Iraq.

Dr. Ghali asserted that Egypt would support any initiative to stop the fighting in the Gulf conditional on withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. He said there was no connection between the liberation of Kuwait and the destruction of Iraq or changing the Iraqi regime.

Egypt's position, he said, is one of noninterference in the internal affairs of Iraq or any other Arab state. He pointed out that Egypt had dealt with the Iraqi regime before and was prepared to deal with it again, provided it withdraws from Kuwait and provided legitimacy is restored there.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said that Egypt saw a need for a security system in the region stemming from the wishes of the Arab states and based on Arab treaties in this connection, adding that there was no objection to seeking UN assistance.

He also said that there could be no negotiations to settle the Gulf problem before the annoucement of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

He added that because it was targeted by Iraqi missiles, Israel received military and financial aid, and that that was a matter that lay within the framework of U.S.-Israeli relations.

Egypt, Dr. Ghali emphasized, believes that it is in the Arab nation's interest for Iraq to have its own forces and Egypt has confirmed that its relations with Jordan were normal and that diplomatic contacts between the two countries were continuing through the full diplomatic representation between them.

With regard to the scale of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia, Dr. Ghali said that the number of troops was 35,000 and that they were there for the defense of Saudi Arabia and the liberation of Kuwait in accordance with the Arab Joint Defense Pact signed by the Arab states in 1950.

With regard to the measure requiring prior entry visas for nationals of Arab Maghreb countries wishing to enter Egypt, Dr. Ghali said it was a temporary precautionary security measure and that it had no political significance.

Missile Training Under Way in Aswan Zone

NC2901183191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1817 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—A military spokesman has stated the following:

Within the framework of the regular training plan, and to raise the level of preparedness, air defense units deployed in the Aswan military zone south of the High Dam are firing projectiles at training targets. Within this framework, two missiles were fired at training targets this afternoon.

Such training takes place from time to time in accordance with these units' annual training plan.

Japanese Officials Discuss Contribution to Crisis

Evacuation Plan Cooperation

OW2901132491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 29 KYODO—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said Tuesday Egypt will fully cooperate with Japan's plan to use military aircraft to evacuate refugees fleeing the Persian Gulf.

Mubarak, meeting a group of officials of the Japanese ruling Liberal Democratic Party, also said the allied forces will continue the aerial bombardment of Iraq for about three more weeks.

Bombing that long will prepare conditions for a ground battle, he told the delegation led by former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi.

He said the Egyptian Army will join the allied ground battle aimed at driving Iraq from Kuwait.

Mubarak said there is no problem with Japan's plan to use military planes for evacuating war refugees.

"We will cooperate to the fullest extent," he was quoted as saying.

The Japanese Government said last week it wants to use Air Self-Defense Force aircraft to evacuate refugees from Syria and Jordan as part of Japan's contribution to the allied war effort.

Japanese Official on Gulf Policy

NC2901161391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a delegation led by former Japanese Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi at the Presidential Palace this morning. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the meeting.

Following the session, Yamaguchi said that Japan's policy on the Gulf war is governed by three principles. These are:

First, providing humane assistance to refugees and extending immediate aid to them in coordination with the UN programs organizing food and medical relief.

Second, providing economic assistance to the countries neighboring the Gulf region, including Egypt.

Third, providing financial assistance to the allied forces that are acting under the UN umbrella to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

The Japanese official noted that in accordance with agreements signed after World War II and the Japanese Constitution, Japan cannot participate militarily in the multinational force. However, Japan supports the UN resolutions and works for their implementation. [passage omitted]

Egypt To Accept Japanese Military Aircraft

OW2901140691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1348 GMT 29 Jan 91

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 29 KYODO—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said Tuesday his country is ready to accept the planned dispatch to Cairo of Japanese military aircraft aimed at evacuating Asian refugees escaping the Persian Gulf war.

Mubarak also said it will be some three weeks before U.S.-led multinational forces launch a crucial ground war to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

He made the remarks during a meeting with a visiting delegation of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), LDP officials told a press conference.

The LDP delegation, headed by former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi, arrived here Sunday to prepare for the evacuation plan, part of Tokyo's 9 billion dollar package unveiled last week to shore up the anti-Baghdad coalition.

The plan calls for four Air Self-Defense Force C-130 transport planes to shuttle war refugees from Jordan and Syria to Cairo.

Commercial Japanese aircraft are to pick them up in the Egyptian capital and fly them to their home countries.

Mubarak said at the meeting that he sees no problem in the evacuation plan and proposed that Egyptian airliners also be used in the operation, said Yamaguchi and other officials who attended.

He recommended the operation be undertaken as a joint effort by Japan, Egypt, and the United Nations, they said.

Referring to the 13-day-old Gulf war, Mubarak said it will be effective to continue air bombardment of Iraqi and Kuwaiti targets for another three weeks before entering ground warfare, they said.

He denied speculation that Egypt may not join ground battle, the officials said, quoting him as saying its 35,000 troops in the coalition "will fight absolutely."

Mubarak said Egypt is ready to discuss a negotiated end to the war if Iraqi President Saddam Husayn offered a ceasefire to the Arab League, the LDP officials said.

But he discounted such a possibility, saying he has appealed to Husayn for a peaceful solution 27 times to no avail.

Mubarak said last week he will not pursue any new peace initiative unless Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, which it invaded August 2.

Recalling Iraq's 1980-88 war with Iran, Mubarak said the Iraqis have been subjected to another war and hardship.

He said the Iraqi military will not tolerate the continuation of such distress, expressing a belief that the Husayn government would not last much longer, the officials said.

A senior Egyptian Government official said earlier this week that Egypt is prepared to cooperate with Husayn after the war ends.

But Mubarak ruled out any such prospect, saying the Egyptians "cannot go along with him because he is not analytical," the officials said.

The Japanese plan to use military aircraft has drawn a warning from Baghdad that such planes will be subject to Iraqi attacks.

"Any military vehicle will be a legitimate target," Iraqi Ambassador to Tokyo Rashid al-Rifa'i said last week.

The plan has also sparked a nationwide antiwar movement among Japanese who fear it could pave the way for Tokyo to commit the military to overseas conflicts in violation of the war-renouncing Constitution.

Ghali Receives Japanese Delegation

NC3001005091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—This evening State Minister for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali received the visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation representing the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, led by Mr. Toshio Yamaguchi, chairman of the parliamentary economic relations committee, and a former labor minister. [passage omitted]

Dr. Ghali outlined Egypt's position on the Gulf crisis as spelled out by President Mubarak's speech to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council last Thursday.

Dr. Ghali told them Egypt appreciates Japan's stand on the crisis and its readiness to help the nations affected by it.

Morocco

'All Sectors' Strike in Support of Iraq

LD2901125391 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Rabat, 29 Jan (MAP)—A one day strike was observed Monday in all sectors in Morocco in sympathy with the Iraqi people battered daily by the coalition forces led by the United States of America.

In this eloquent act of solidarity testifying to the commitment of the Moroccan people to Arab and Islamic ideals, all the layers of the society answered the call of the major trade unions and made a special point of abiding by the government's recommendation to make the one day strike an opportunity for "prayer, discipline, and responsibility [words indistinct] the massive response of the Moroccan people to the call which translates the unanimous stand to the side of Iraq was not marred by incidents, calm and order prevailed on the entire national territory.

Opposition Daily on Strike

LD2901130291 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Rabat, Jan 29 (MAP)—The Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP-Opposition) called through its "AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAQUI" daily the Moroccan Government for material aid to Iraq.

In its Tuesday release, the daily says the government's stance has evolved underlying the call made by the government on the eve of the one-day strike in solidarity with the Iraqi people. An official statement invited Moroccans to preserve order on a day devoted to prayer in sympathy with Iraq.

The USFP urges the government to do more for the Iraqi people fighting for the dignity of the Arab nation and calls for action by all Arab countries to extend Iraq all the assistance it needs. Humanitarian organisations should also be addressed by Arab countries to send relief to Iraqi civilians, says the USFP mouthpiece.

Presence of Saudi Royal Family Denied

LD2801134891 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Rabat, Jan. 28 (MAP)—Moroccan authorized milieux have categorically denied the news broadcast Saturday evening by the Algerian TV which, quoting the Algerian daily AL-SALAM, said that "Saudi special planes arrived in Morocco with members of the Saudi royal family on board".

A Saudi official source denied over a week ago the news circulated by Tunisian AL-SHORUQ and Jordanian AL-RA'Y dailies alleging that members of the Saudi royal family had arrived in Morocco.

Kuwait

Ministerial Committee Discusses Citizens' Affairs

LD2901213491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Excerpts] al-Ta'if, 29 Jan (SPA)—The Kuwaiti Ministerial Committee on Citizens' Affairs which was formed by the Higher Advisory Body that was instituted by the Kuwaiti popular conference, held a meeting today in al-Ta'if and debated a number of matters that concern Kuwaiti citizens at home and abroad.

The secretary general of the Kuwaiti popular conference Engineer 'Abd al-Rahman Khalid al-Ghunaym made the following statement after the meeting:

Within the framework of the joint activity and on the directive of His Highness the heir apparent and Prime minister Shaykh Sa'd al- 'Abdallah al Salim al-Sabah who is chairman of the Higher Advisory Body, a second joint meeting was held this morning—Tuesday 29 January 1991—during which it debated a number of issues and problems concerning citizens at home and abroad and discussed their various problems and worries at this difficult time which we are passing through as a result of the treacherous Iraqi aggression. In a frank and fraternal atmosphere of positive cooperation the participants discussed ways of tackling these issues and problems to ease the suffering of citizens. [passage omitted]

The views and ideas at this fraternal meeting coincided on a number of issues of concern to citizens. It was agreed that further similar meetings between the two comittees should be held to discuss everthing that may contribute to easing the suffering of citizens and to solving their problems which will be tackled as a priority and to learn from close quarters the conditions of Kuwaiti brothers through field visits by both committees. [passage omitted]

The Ministerial Committee on Citizens' Affairs includes:

minister of social affairs as chairman

interior minister

public works minister

minister of state for housing affairs

finance minister

minister of religious trusts and islamic affairs. [passage omitted]

Minister Puts Cost of Losses at $60 Billion

PM2901112091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jan 91 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Information Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Material Losses of Invasion About 60 Billion"]

[Excerpt] al-Ta'if—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub has revealed that the losses resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait are incalculable and that the material losses alone total $60 billion. This is in addition to murder, eviction, plunder, and rape. He pointed out that a committee has been set up to determine the losses.

He said that the Kuwaiti forces have played a distinctive role within the international allied forces, indicating that integrated plans have been drawn up to rebuild Kuwait in the various fields and to benefit from experience in overcoming any negative aspects that occurred in the past.

Concerning these plans, the Kuwaiti information minister said that his country faced the total destruction of its government installations and private property as a result of spite and hatred directed toward the tangible progress achieved in various fields. He said: Kuwaiti will be rebuilt in the various scientific, social, and cultural fields, and the Kuwaiti citizen will be the cornerstone of that important task.

With regard to the negative aspects of the past and how to overcome them, Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub said that Kuwait's experience has not been easy, adding: We have benefited from this experience in reconsidering certain matters with regard to rebuilding the new Kuwaiti society. He said that Kuwaiti citizens have learned from this experience how dear and precious Kuwait is. He emphasized that all citizens without exception are making every effort to rebuild their country, especially since Kuwaiti citizens have become more distinctive and more capable—which will enhance their role in building and reshaping Kuwait after liberation under the country's amir and the heir apparent.

With regard to the Kuwaiti forces' role in the liberation battle, Minister al-Ya'qub said that the Kuwaiti force were playing a distinctive role in the liberation battle within the international forces, since they carry out daily air sorties, hitting strategic positions in Kuwait and Iraq. All reports indicate that these sorties have been successful. He also said: While our Kuwaiti eagles have played that role, our heroes on land and at sea will participate in the coming few days in heroic operations to liberate Kuwait.

With regard to Kuwait's future security strategy, the Kuwaiti information minister said: The internal security front and external protection will depend on Kuwait citizens. But this would not prevent our turning to other states to strengthen the security sector and future security. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Joint Forces Communique No. 12 on Operations

LD2901183991 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Military Communique No. 12 issued by the command of the Joint Forces and Operations Theater for 29 January]

[Text] One of the missile units of our ground forces launched a surprise attack on an enemy Frog missile unit which was preparing to fire on our units; [the joint forces] fired 16 missiles which hit the target accurately. Our forces were not able to assess the damage caused as a result.

Over the past 24 hours, the Joint Forces carried out 2,782 sorties, bringing the number of sorties carried out by the Joint Forces since the start of the Desert Storm operation to 27,661 of which 1,719 were carried out by our air forces.

Two sea mines have been discovered during the past 24 hours by the Saudi Royal Navy; one of them close to Saffaniyah which is still being dealt with by our naval forces mine detection unit. The other was discovered near [oil] field No. 42 and detonated by our naval forces. Another mine was discovered by the U.S. Naval Forces near Zilf field, which is still being dealt with and will be detonated.

At 2058 yesterday evening, Monday 28 January, the aggressor fired a Scud missile in the direction of Riyadh. It was destroyed in the air, but parts of it fell on a farm in the suburbs of Riyadh. There were no human losses, praise be to God.

A U.S. navy A-6 plane yesterday evening bombed an enemy rocket- mounted patrol boat near Al-Shu'aybah port, and caused severe damage to it. U.S. Navy planes of the same type destroyed two Silkworm missile-launching bases near Al-Faw yesterday.

At around 1000 yesterday morning, Monday 28 January, a U.S. Navy F-8 Harrier was downed near the city of Kuwait as a result of ground resistance. The fate of its pilot is not known yet.

Yesterday afternoon, a U.S. Air Force F-15 downed an enemy MiG-23 plane.

U.S. Forces Reportedly in First Ground Attack

LD2901150691 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan. 29, IRNA—The U.S. ground forces brought Iraqi positions inside Kuwait under heavy artillery fire today, in what Radio Abu Dhabi claimed the first U.S. ground attack since the beginning of the Persian Gulf war on January 17.

Quoting U.S. military sources in Saudi Arabia, the radio said two missile-launching units of the U.S. artillery battalion approached Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia, and heavily attacked the Iraqi positions.

Iraqi Troops Said 'Pulling Back' From Al-Khafji

LD3001151291 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan. 30, IRNA—The U.S.-led forces have totally besieged an Iraqi unit which entered the town of al-Khafji earlier today.

Radio Abu Dhabi, quoting a military source in the Saudi city of Hafar al-Batin, said the armoured units of the allied forces backed by their warplanes, were advancing into the town.

The Iraqi troops, suffering high casualties, are pulling back from the town, said the radio.

UK Helicopters Sink Iraqi Vessels Near Kuwait

LD3001104991 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1019 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By Charles Miller, PRESS ASSOCIATION defense correspondent]

[Text] Royal Navy attack helicopters today sank three Iraqi vessels in the Gulf. Lynx helicopters armed with Sea Skua missiles attacked two Iraqi partrol boats and a minelayer close to the Kuwaiti coast. At the same time it is understood that US A-6 Intruder aircraft were attacking Iraqi landing craft in the same area. The latest attacks follow the sinking of five Iraqi vessels yesterday by Royal Navy helicopters and U.S. war planes.

The helicopters involved in today's operation came from the destroyers HMS Cardiff and HMS Gloucester, which are on patrol at the northern end of the Gulf. The Iraqi vessels, armed with machine guns and small arms, were believed to be carrying commando forces planning to stage raids on installations in north eastern Saudi Arabia.

The five Iraqi vessels which were sunk yesterday were part of a flotilla of 17 enemy boats spotted by Lieutenant Commander Mike Pearey and Pilot Lieutenant Simon Janes in a Lynx helicopter from HMS Brazen. Three Royal Navy Lynx helicopters armed with Sea Skua missiles and cannons took part [in] yesterday's operation. All came under anti-aircraft fire from land and flew low before closing on the flotilla off the Kuwaiti coast. The Lynx from HMS Cardiff hit and sank an Iraqi vessel with a Sea Skua missile and the other Lynx fired once each. A U.S. Cobra helicopter gunship and Saudi Dauphin attack helicopters joined the attack within minutes. Allied jets were also called in. No allied casualties were reported in the operation.

The remaining Iraqi gunboats were beached, 20 miles north of the Saudi border, in a Kuwaiti bay called Mina Ash Shuyaiba. [name as received]

"The main thought when we detected the patrol boats was how we can be sure they are friend or foe," said Lt Cdr Pearey. "We closed to two miles and studied them, but they did not appear to react—if they had fired on us we should at least have had the benefit of knowing they were Iraqi." The problem was resolved by contact with HMS Gloucester—but Lt Cdr Pearey admitted: "The lingering doubt, the thought of attacking allied units in error, was a very real worry."

King Fahd, Syria's al-Asad Exchange Messages

LD2901163591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1605 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 29 Jan, (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received a message from his brother His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The message was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during his audience with King Fahd at the royal office in the al-Yamamah Palace today.

The custodian of the two holy mosques entrusted the Syrian foreign minister with a reply message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince 'Abdallah Receives U.S. Ambassador

LD2901112891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1045 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received at his office at the Royal Court at al-Yamamah Palace this afternoon Charles Freeman, U.S. ambassador to the kingdom. The meeting was attended by Mr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, the crown prince's advisor.

Communist Party Urges U.S. Pullout, Settlement

JN2901113191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Jan 91 p 12

["Exclusive"]

[Excerpts] Saudi Arabia—An official spokesman for the Communist Party in Saudi Arabia has said that the American aggression is aimed at destroying fraternal Iraq and forcing the region to bow under the U.S. umbrella. He called for the immediate withdrawal of American forces from the region, solving Arab differences within the Arab framework, and for dealing with all the region's issues through single standards, which was emphasized by the 12 August Iraqi initiative. [passage omitted]

Concluding his statement, the spokesman called for stopping all the military operations aimed at destroying fraternal Iraq and eliminating its power, which is an asset for the Arab nation in its legitimate pan-Arab struggle to regain its usurped rights.

He also called for finding a peaceful settlement of the current dispute in our Arabian Gulf, the immediate withdrawal of the American forces from the region, solving the dispute peacefully and within the framework of an Arab solution, and for terminating all the sanctions imposed on Iraq. [passage omitted]

Traveller From Riyadh Claims Patriots Ineffective

LD2901181491 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 29, IRNA—The red alert in Riyadh the Saudi Arabian capital, is commonly feared as "the music of death" and at sunset seldom anybody is seen on the city streets.

A traveller arriving in Beirut from Riyadh Monday, said military experts in the Saudi capital are bewildered, and added that the anti-missile patriots either collide with each other or fall into the city resulting in further sufferings, rather than hit and neutralize the Iraqi Scud missiles.

He said he had seen the falling of a Patriot missile into a house at his neighborhood killing four of the occupants.

About the destructive power of the Scuds, he said an Iraqi missile hit the Riyadh air base and demolished its gymnasium, but that due to the Saudis' censorship of war news the casualty figures were not disclosed.

In addition, he said, another missile caused great damage to the new airport in the Saudi capital.

The visitor from Riyadh said due to the inaccuracy of the Patriots each time Iraq launched a rocket into Saudi Arabia, the axis forces wildly fire many anti-missile patriots in the hope that at least one of them will hit the incoming object.

He added in one instance he saw that 35 Patriot rockets were launched at two Iraqi missiles zooming upon Riyadh but to no avail.

He said there are strict restrictions against evicting the city and that he pursued his case for 12 days until he could obtain an authorization for exit from Saudi Arabia.

Many strategically or militarily important targets in Dhahran, have been hit by Iraqi missiles, according to the visitor.

'Source' Denies Police Shoot Imam, Brother

LD2901200591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1845 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Jan (SPA)—A responsible source made a statement to the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY today, saying:

As part of their rancorous disinformation campaign, the Iraqi and Algerian news agencies today, Tuesday, quoted a hireling Jordanian newspaper report that claimed that the Saudi police had fired on the shaykh of the Grand Mosque in Riyadh, and on his brother, at the end of the Friday prayers sermon.

The source said: "When rancor blinds some people, we see them grope in the dark in an attempt to slander the kingdom by spreading malicious reports and rumors, without consideration for the feelings of the readers, or honest reporting."

The source concluded: "While ridiculing such a farcical report, we mention this to the brother citizens and residents here as an example of what is carried by those media in the form of slanders and cheap intrigue."

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Envoy on Landings of Iraqi Planes

NC2801191891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1812 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Jan (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met this evening with Muhammad Ali Hadi Najaf Abadi, Iranian ambassador to the UAE. [name as received]

WAM noted that they discussed developments in the Gulf area. Speaking after the meeting, the Iranian ambassador said that the Iraqi military aircraft had made emergency landings in Iran without the prior knowledge of Iranian authorities. He said that the planes were allowed to land for humanitarian reasons only.

The Iranian ambassador affirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow these planes to be used for military purposes and that the Iranian authorities will keep them until the end of the war. He also affirmed that his country will not allow any country to use Iran's airspace, territory, or territorial waters for military purposes.

The Iranian ambassador said that Iran will maintain its neturality toward the war in the Gulf.

Egyptian Chief of Staff Arrives in Abu Dhabi

NC2901100491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jan (WAKH)—Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of the staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, and his delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

To receive him were Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, UAE Armed Forces chief of staff, and a number of Armed Forces officers.

Leaves After Brief Visit

NC2901171291 Manama WAKH in English 1655 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 29 (WAKH)—Egyptian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf left here today evening after a short visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates].

He was seen off at the airport by UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi and a number of military officers.

Yemen

Environmental Council Issues Appeal on Gulf War

EA2901185091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Our country's Council for Environmental Protection has appealed to all countries and all regional and international organizations as well as scientific establishments specializing in environmental matters to act immediately to stop the destructive war in the region and to contain its disastrous environmental effects before matters get worse.

In a meeting held today under the chairmanship of Engineer Muhsin 'Ali al-Hamdani, minister of state and chairman of the Council, the Council pointed out that the flow of oil into the marine environment in the Arabian Gulf threatens marine life and fish as well as water destined for drinking in the Gulf states. The council warned against setting the oil ablaze because this would lead to [words indisti?] and constitutes a threat to the atmospheric and agricultural environments and sources of drinking water.

Meanwhile, the constituent committee of the Yemeni Association of Friends of the Environment issued a statement today stressing that the imperialist assault on the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf not only aims at destroying Iraq's military and economic resources, but could also lead to the destruction of all capabilities and infrastructures of life for the peoples in the region, particularly with regard to the deterioration of the environment [words indistinct] and effects of the war for (?many) years to come.

Saddam, Ministers Set 'Ground Offensive Plan'

NC3001152791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1506 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting on 26 January. The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of information. The meeting was also attended by Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; Defense Minister Staff General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas; and a number of military commanders.

During the meeting, the ground offensive plan against the forces of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression was outlined.

Visits Al-Basrah Governorate 27 Jan

NC3001153491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—President leader Saddam Husayn visited the al-Basrah Governorate on 27 January. He met with the field commanders on the front of justice against falsehood. His excellency gave his final instructions for the implementation of the ground offensive.

Communiques Claim Shootdowns, Offensive

Troops Move Into Saudi Territory

NC2901182191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1726 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Communique No. 29 issued by the Armed Forces General Command]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great. God is great. How beautiful victory is with the help of God! God is great. Glory to you, O valiant Iraqis. Triumph will be only yours in this glorious, immemorial epic, where the whole of infidelity, the whole of hypocrisy, and the whole of treachery are massing against the will of virtue, belief, and courage, represented by the great Iraq, which is persistently marching ahead under the banner of God is great carried by our leader, beloved one, and vanguard in the fields of honor, the hero knight Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Today, an example of what is to come and what will happen every day has happened—Iraqi victories, in the face of which the herds of barbarism will run in fear. The determination of the Iraqis bursts out with zealousness and courage, while the cowardice and defeat of the hostile forces are confirmed in the face of Iraq's noble and virtuous youths. Following are the details:

1. Last night, groups of our heroic formations in the Central Sector of the southern operations theater carried out a lightning attack against the enemy guard posts and advanced units across our border with Saudi Arabia in the region of 'Ar'ar. One of our columns managed to advance 15 kilometers inside the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], which is ruled by the agent Sa'ud family. The other column managed to advance 20 kilometers inside these territories. Our forces, known as they are for their valor, courage, and good combat performance, managed to kill large numbers of scoundrels and destroy large amounts of their weapons and equipment. They also managed to capture usable quantities of weapons and equipment and to destroy enemy positions and fortifications. After performing the duty in the best way possible, our forces withdrew to their bases safe and victorious without enabling the enemy to interfere in the withdrawal operation.

Let Bush, the key figures in the U.S. Administration, the criminal Zionists, their foolish allies, and their slaves who are called Arabs know that the truth is decided on the battlefield and not by empty talk, that this operation is the tip of the iceberg, and they will know for sure what painful blows God and the soldiers of Iraq are keeping in store. Praise be to God, and glory to you who have contributed to this operation, be they commanders, officers, or soldiers. Forward you go to rub the nose of the enemy in the mud of defeat. God be with us.

2. One of our (?foot) patrols last night advanced into Saudi Arabia from our borders at the governorate of Kuwait, targeting the enemy's observation posts, its forward units, and patrols. In a lightning-swift clash, the heroic men in this patrol managed to destroy several of the enemy's vehicles, kill and wound a number of its personnel, and destroy their weapons. They returned to their bases safely, protected by God's care and love. God bless you mighty men of Iraq.

3. The enemy, with the full cowardice and cruelty for which the key figures of U.S. policy are known, has carried out 24 air sorties against the residential areas in our beloved Iraq.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 12 Rajab 1411 Hegira, 29 January 1991

Three Planes Claimed 30 Jan

NC3001082891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0740 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Communique No. 30 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: After the imperialists and Zionists used all their methods of aggression against our great homeland, methods on which they pinned their hopes to break the will of the Iraqi people and affect their morale, the Iraqis, thanks to God's help and thanks to their splendid efforts both on the battlefronts or deep inside Iraq, are standing where they have decided to stand and where they should stand, steadfast in the face of challenges, proceeding toward their objectives, cohesive behind their leadership, ignoring what is being disseminated by the organs serving the stick and carrot policy, and realizing that the sublime objective is to safeguard their territory and way of life. The Iraqis fully believe that they have defeated all the barbaric brutality and that today they are more capable than ever to inflict the final defeat on the aggressors, destroy their remnants, and force them to accept justice humiliated.

Because the Iraqis' objective is clear and because they have mobilized to achieve this objective, the Americans and their allies will harvest a sweeping failure, the features of which have become clear and will become clearer each day until they accept the will of justice and peace.

Following is a roundup of the enemy's acts of aggression and our activities:
1. The enemy has continued to attack residential areas in our cities and villages. It also has continued to attack our defense positions with aircraft and missiles. The number of enemy air sorties total 127.
2. We have confirmed that 24 Zionist aircraft have passed Turkish territory to participate in the American-Atlantic aggression against our beloved country.
3. The heroic men of our air and ground defense intercepted the enemy's rats and were able to down three aircraft. Blessed be the brave men.
4. Our brave forces in the operation sector conducted many field missile attacks on the oil refineries in the al-Khafji in Saudi Arabia, setting the targets on fire.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 13 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 30 January 1991

'Lightning Land Attack' Detailed

NC3001095891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0907 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Communique No. 31 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Help from God and a speedy victory. [Koranic verse] O great Iraqi people; O Saudi people, the honorable people of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]; O people wherever you are: We did not want it [the war], and God is our witness. But, traitor Fahd, the agent of the Americans, wants it. He turned the land of sanctities and revelation into an arena for the operations of the leaders of infidelity. Thus, he desecrated the sanctities, the land, and what is on it. He committed his treasonous crime together with Bush, the enemy of God. Every day, they commit aggression using their air force against the faithful, patient people of Iraq. They kill the children and women in addition to the lofty believers, the righteous sons. They speak admiringly of the large number of their planes involved in the aggression. In this way they begin to imagine things and continue their depravity. The madness of their treason and crime has guided their sick imagination. Their miserable dreams hinge on the technological development of the air fleet.

Now that the aggression is clear and the crime is hideous before all the Muslims and the world, we are meeting the advanced technology with faithful men.

O Iraqis, O Arabs, and O Muslims who believe in justice, your faithful and courageous ground forces have moved to teach the aggressors the lessons they deserve. They have launched their lightning land attack, bearing high the banner that says God is great, and they have crushed the armies of atheism as they advance, routing those who could run away while cursing the infidels and heathens. Our units advanced approximately 20 km onto the battlefield where the enemy in the Saudi kingdom of evil is found. Our forces managed to enter the coastal town of al-Khafji at midnight tonight. Thus God has given the faith a great victory with the collapse of the front of infidelity on the earth which God has blessed so it will continue to defend his banner and sing his praises.

O people in the Kingdom of the Saudis, the people of Najd and Hejaz. We do not covet your land. We are your brothers, and you are our brothers. All of us are in one line against the line of atheism, crime, and corruption—the line of Fahd and Bush and their failing collaborators. Our entry into your land is not occupation but is made necessary by the circumstances of the fight against the armies of atheism and aggression that have turned your land into a base for aggression. The enemy and the aggression will not conceal from us the fact that we are your brothers and you are our brothers, and that this relationship, as it has always been, is above all ambition and gain. It will continue to be above any material gain in life and above any ambition imagined by any small-minded person. The main thing for us, as it is for you, is to satisfy God and to exercise our legitimate right to defend ourselves and the great principles, which are the principles of all the faithful Muslims and honorable Arabs of whom you constitute a part. God is great, God is great, God is great. May the lowly be accursed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] The night of 12/13 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 29/30 January 1991

Reportage on Ground Offensive Against Al-Khaji

Forces Said 'Leveling' Enemy Positions

NC3001110291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1020 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O brothers: The good omens of the splendid victory over the enemies of God, the enemies of the Arabs and Muslims, have appeared. The vanguards of conquest [al-fath], the vanguards of victory, are leveling the positions of the forces of the tyrants and agents in al-Khafji. Your forces, the forces of the people, the forces of Khalid Ibn-al-Walid, the forces of al-Muthanna, the forces of Saddam Husayn, are wiping out the renegade invaders and knocking out the forces of infidelity, corruption, and treason. These are the remnants of the American-Jewish-Atlantic-Saudi aggression fleeing in front of the believers.

These are your victorious forces marching in their heroic advance under the banner of Iraq, the banner of God is great. God willing, the banner of the aggressors will not fly higher than our banner. God is above all aggressors. God is above all the criminal tyrants such as Bush, his aides, and the midget agents—Husni, Fahd, and others.

It is the banner of Iraq, the banner of God is great, under which the swords of the faithful are brandished to tear apart the corrupt bodies and turn the soil of the pure earth into fire that will burn the cowardly remnants fleeing in the face of the determination and might of the Iraqis.

O oppressors, this is the mother of battles. It is the battle of justice which will not be undermined by any falsehood. It is the battle of God is great against the treachery of the traitors, cowards, and criminals, the servants of Israel and America. It will be a clear victory, with God's help. How sweet is victory with God's help. How sweet is victory with God's help. God is great, God is great, God is great.

Action Not 'Occupation'

NC3001122691 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio Network in Arabic 1125 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O sons of the Arab nation: This is God's victory for His army with the shouts of the faithful mujahidin—God is great. The march of justice toward the kingdom of filth and treason has begun and the good omens of victory have appeared before the gathering of the mujahidin led by the banner of great Iraq, inspired by the belief in God and victory to move toward the place where today they are wiping out the dens of espionage and agentry in the lands of Najd and Hejaz.

And here is the city of al-Khafji, which was under the yoke of the defiled and infidels. Today it witnesses the arrival of the vanguards of the mujahidin, who began their march under the banner of God is great, the banner of great Iraq.

Proceed O army of justice, the symbol of the dignity, pride, and honor of the nation; proceed to level the bastion of defilement and depravation and to throw the heads of treason and agentry into the dustbin of history.

The entry of our forces into the lands of Najd and Hejaz is neither an occupation nor is it out of greed for this land, but rather to deter aggression and crush the forces of deception and crime which are pouring their gunfire on the homes of secure Iraqis and killing children, old people, and women.

O our brothers in Najd and Hejaz: We are your brothers. We harbor no evil toward you. We came to deter evil and avert aggression to our country and nation. We absolutely trust that the sons of Najd and Hejaz are with us and that they realize that their brothers in Iraq are only fighting the American and Atlantic invaders who desecrated the house of God and the land of the heavenly messages. We are also absolutely certain that the Arab soldiers whose rulers pushed them into a trench with atheists and occupiers will not hesitate to join their brothers, the soldiers of courageous Iraq who have started their holy march to crush aggression and treachery. The Egyptian, Syrian, or Moroccan soldier can never take arms against his Iraqi brothers as his agent rulers want him to do.

Decisive victory is approaching, God willing. God is great, God is great, God is great. May the lowly be accursed.

Military Source Denies Patriots Intercept Scuds

NC2901192891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1842 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Brothers, a responsible source at the Military Industrialization Organization has stated the following:

Certain media organs have disseminated allegations by military and political enemy sources to the effect that the al-Husayn [Scud] missiles are being intercepted by the U.S.-made Patriot missiles before they reach their designated targets. We wish to make it clear that these allegations are totally untrue and that the enemy is fully aware of this fact. These lies and fabrications are disproved by the accuracy with which the designated targets were destroyed by our heroic missile forces each time our missiles were fired.

We wish in this regard to recall that Iraq was the first country to succeed in intercepting surface-to-surface missiles. Iraq has made a public announcement of the success of its anti-missile system, called the al-Faw-1, following thorough research by Iraqi scientists into the intricacies of the design of missile interception systems. We recall this just as a reminder that we are knowledgeable in the art of intercepting missiles. We have more than one way of refuting the claim that our missiles can be intercepted.

The enemies insist on calling the al-Husayn missile a Scud. By now they should be well aware that the missile they are trying to intercept is not a Scud missile and does not function in the same way as a Scud. Ours is the al-Husayn missile, a missile born in the steadfast land of Iraq. Had our missiles been Scuds, as they claim, the Patriot missile would actually have succeeded in intercepting them. We knew this all along, and they must have learned it by now. God is great. Victory to the honorable and the faithful. Shame and humiliation to the infidel and heathen.

Bombed Cities Said 'Totally Blackened' by Smoke

LD2901162591 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Khorramshahr (Khuzestan), Jan. 29, IRNA—Palls of smoke blanketing Abadan and Khorramshahr since morning following the bombing of the Basra petrochemical complex by the U.S.-led forces are gradually getting thin.

Columns of thick black smoke billowing from the petrochemical complex in Basra blackened the sky over Khorramshahr and Abadan on the other side of the Arvand river. The sky was so dark that it made onlookers expect a torrential rain any moment.

The smoke could be seen from as far as 25 kms north of Abadan by travellers on the Ahvaz-Abadan highway. Some of the travellers interviewed by IRNA said they observed a column of thick smoke moving from western Khorramshahr towards Abadan.

According to reports from inside Iraq the sky over the Iraqi towns of Zubair, Abul-Khasib and Basra was totally blackened by the smoke.

'Pounding' of Basra Reported Continuing 29 Jan

LD2901150891 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Khorramshahr (Khuzestan), Jan. 29, IRNA—The U.S.-West European axis continued its pounding of the Iraqi port city of Basra, with warplanes and missiles four times this afternoon.

The loud explosions and the roar of anti-aircraft batteries was clearly heard across the Arvand river in the Iranian port cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan.

Basra petrochemical plant was also bombed by the axis forces Monday night, sending huge columns of smoke in the air.

More 'U.S.-Led' Attacks 30 Jan

LD3001144491 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Khorramshahr, Jan. 30, IRNA—The Iraqi port city of Basra and its suburbs were attacked by missiles and aircraft of the U.S.-led forces, Wednesday.

The attacks which continued until 15:00 hours (11:30 GMT), some damage was inflicted on Basra, but there was no report on human losses.

Former Army Commander Urges Saddam's Overthrow

LD2801223891 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-Dawud, former commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces, has urged the Army and people in Iraq to declare a revolution and overthrow the regime of the Iraqi tyrant.

The Iraqi military commander made an appeal through the Saudi magazine AL-YAMAMAH, issued today, Tuesday [as heard], to all officers and men of the Armed Forces and all the people urging them to declare a revolution. The appeal included a proposed plan of revolution, starting with the declaration of a general strike as from the first minute of Friday, 1 February, to continue until the fall of the regime. The plan suggests that the Army and its free officers and all members of the Armed Forces should take control of vital installations in the country and arrest the regime's spies and agents. According to the appeal, a National Salvation Council would be formed after the success of the revolution that would include all free officers of various ranks. A military court would be set up to try Saddam for all the crimes he has committed against the Iraqi people, Iranian people, and the Kuwaiti people.

After that, the appeal called for the formation of a civilian national government which would hold free general elections within a period of one year after the fall of the regime, to elect people's representatives to a council of deputies and another of notables [a'yan]. The statement also called for the reconstruction of Iraq and for ridding it finally and forever of biological and chemical weapons.

Staff Lt. Gen. al-Dawud addressed another appeal to the leaders of Jordan, Yemen, and Sudan, and to all those whom he described as pretending to be weeping for Iraq, its people, and its capabilities, in which he urged them to express their sentiments toward the Iraqi people by standing by the people and not by supporting the Iraqi regime.

Red Crescent 'Ready To Receive' ICRC Team

JN3001100391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jan 91 p 11

[By Ahmad al-Dabbas]

[Excerpt] Ibrahim al-Nuri, president of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society [IRCS], has announced that Iraq is ready to receive a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to acquaint itself with the conditions of prisoners from the forces of the American enemy and its allies—states which are participating in the aggression against Iraq—to ascertain that prisoners are being treated fairly in accordance with international charters and humanitarian laws.

In a statement to the SAWT AL-SHA'B correspondent on the battlefield of the mother of battles, he said: We have not yet received any official application from the ICRC in this regard. However, he said, while we welcome such a visit by ICRC representatives, in return we set the condition that they also acquaint themselves with the conditions of the Iraqi people, who are considered prisoners of the United States and its partners in the aggression. After these sides imposed an economic siege on the Iraqi people and prevented medicine and food from reaching them, now their forces are carrying out brutal air raids on civilian targets and residential quarters, martyring or wounding large numbers of civilians and making homeless many others who have taken refuge in streets and public places to avoid the danger of the brutal raids.

Dr. al-Nuri said that the prisoners captured from the enemies' forces are being well treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention and that Iraq is providing them with all the medicines and food they need. One prisoner, he said, was given polish and a brush which he requested to polish his shoes.

He also said that the United States and its enemy allies do not give a damn about international legitimacy, human laws, and international charters and treaties, while Iraq is adhering to the real international and human charters and legitimacy. We also adhere to the provisions of the Geneva Convention.

He added that the enemy forces are deliberately bombing civilian areas. They have shelled a number of hospitals and medical centers in various places and attacked water storage tanks, causing many people to go thirsty. [passage omitted]

Bush's State of the Union Address Criticized

NC3001151391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1350 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: Bush has never hesitated to lie and deceive. His latest lies and fabrications were those contained in his speech to the U.S. Congress on Tuesday [29 January]. Without any feeling of shame, Bush said that he is defending humanity and fairness in the Gulf war. He can believe what he says. His entourage of experts and brains of the criminal U.S. arsenal can believe him. But lies do not last [words indistinct].

How could Bush be defending humanity and fairness when he is ordering his mercenaries to hit women and children and destroy residential areas and cultural and social establishments? Whoever defends fairness and humanity must first stop his destructive war machine, resort to a deep and balanced dialogue, and safeguard, not squander, the fate and dignity of peoples. Whoever defends fairness and humanity must also have military honor in his daily dealing with the war and not turn into an evil butcher whose black record daily lists a number of ugly crimes. Whoever defends humanity and fairness must be fair in his conduct and not resort to lies and deceit.

At any rate, the claims made by Bush about fairness and humanity will remain the hostage of his sick mind and that of his administration. Nations, honest people, and strugglers know what a loathsome criminal he is.

Paper: U.S. 'Will Not Be Excluded' From Attacks

NC3001115491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH scoffs at Bush's pledge to the Americans that the battle in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula will not be another Vietnam. The paper warns that the battle will, indeed, not be another Vietnam but more calamitous, more cruel, and more bitter for the United States.

In its editorial today, AL-THAWRAH, which expresses the view of the Ba'th Party, says that what racist Bush has not yet taken into account is that the mother of battles operations will take place not only in Hafar al-Batin and on the Arab land but will expand to every place in the world where the institutions and interests of aggressive America and its allies are found.

The paper warns that the American arena will not be excluded from the operations and explosions of the Arab and Muslim mujahidin and all the honest strugglers in the world.

AL-THAWRAH draws the attention of the officials in Washington and its followers to the fact that what happened to the American and European institutions and interests in the past few days is a clear indication of the trends and developments the coming phase will witness in the comprehensive confrontation.

The paper strongly warns the U.S. Administration by saying: The United States has bitter options before it, contrary to all Bush has been bragging about and is hoping for.

The paper denounces Bush's speech to the American people and their representatives concerning the war and his portrayal of the aggression against Iraq as a just war. The paper wonders: What just war is this that aims to annihilate a people, destroy their economic and cultural edifice, establish American and Zionist hegemony on the region, and impose capitulation on the Arabs?

Paper Warns of 'Bitter Options' Facing U.S.

NC3001114891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says Iraq still holds several cards for the battle, each one of which will be a great surprise to the enemies.

In its editorial today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, asserts: We have prepared for the enemies' soldiers everything that will settle the battle in our favor.

It emphasizes that America, which pushed all the weight of its allies to the battle site, will find itself, facing the valiant Iraqis' power, forced to yield to the de facto situation and admit its bitter defeat sooner or later.

The paper recalls the past days' confrontation in light of the strategy Iraq is adopting in repulsing the aggression. It says: The initiative still remains in Iraq's hands, and there are bitter options facing the United States and its allies contrary to their expectations.

The paper focuses on the current facts of the war which confirm that Iraq has succeeded in determining the course of the war.

It says that when Iraq emphasizes that it still keeps a great arsenal of weapons and competent men, it is making an unequivocal assertion based on a solid background of facts. Iraq will soon witness a magnificent victory; the battle will be great and historic and will mark a watershed between two eras—the era of imperialist hegemony and a new era awaited by all the Arab masses.

'Countdown Has Begun' for Israel's Demise

NC2901225591 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio Network in Arabic 1525 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] O Arabs! The countdown has begun for the demise of the so-called State of Israel. The march of salvation from Zionist despotism is already under way. You are urged to wage jihad, armed with faith and the love of the homeland. The missiles of our great Iraq—the leader of the faithful gathering—have paved the way for Palestine. Iraq is as faithful to the pledge as ever: to be ever in the vanguard of those heading for liberation. As for you, our kinfolk and brothers in Egypt, Syria, and the peninsula, you are waging jihad on two levels: the jihad to rid yourselves of that from which you are suffering, and the jihad to cleanse Jerusalem and Mecca from the sacrilege of occupied invaders. With God's help, we will be triumphant.

Aim of 'Liberating Jerusalem' Said 'Attainable'

JN2901180291 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Jan 91 pp 1, 6

[Article signed by AL-JUMHURIYAH: "The Dream That Has Come True"]

[Text] When we say that the road to Palestine has been opened, it is because we have restored self-confidence and hope after half a century of attempts to instill despair in us. For the first time, Iraq has crushed the psychological barrier in two directions. The first direction is in ending the fear of attacking the Zionists in their own home and proving that it is possible for Arab fire to reach the capital of the Zionists. The second direction is in rebuilding the Arab psyche with the aim of preparing this generation psychologically and practically to accept the idea that its objective of liberating Jerusalem and regaining Palestine is attainable.

Iraq, in this battle, has crossed these barriers and brought Palestine very close to the people, leaving behind the rubble of the attempts to destroy our spirit, which the Zionists, colonialists, and mean traitors exploited to destroy the Arabs' self-confidence and to try to deceive us by saying that Palestine has gone and will not return. However, all they have worked for is now trampled under foot because Palestine is very near now that our minds are prepared to retrieve it. The more painful blows we deal to the American-Zionist aggression against Iraq, the closer Jerusalem becomes. The crown of victory is shining over our heads and is glittering in Jerusalem. Iraq is repulsing aggression and emerging strong and healthy after it has restored the confidence that has been absent from the Arabs for long decades. The impossible dreams are getting closer to us than facts.

'American-Zionist Enemy' Facing 'Entire' Nation

NC2701114791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has asserted that a people who have been hardened by experiences, challenges, and confrontations; who have emerged from all of this stronger and gained added confidence in their unique, historic leader Saddam Husayn and their legitimate objectives to attain their rights and the rights of the Arabs, and to forge their present in a manner which would make the achievement of their ambitions possible and imminent. [incomplete sentence as received]

In today's editorial, the paper says that the American-Zionist enemy's major dilemma is that it is facing the entire people of Iraq, who have built their progress and power with their patience, sacrifices, and faith.

The paper notes that when the war criminal Bush starts looking for justifications for his aggression and putting up false headlines for his colonialist war on Iraq, all of this is within the sphere of exposed lies, because the facts reveal the truth. Besides, the events of the past year are well known, and the Iraqi people and all the honorable sons of the Arab nation and the poor of the world know these events.

The paper points out that the objectives of the American-Zionist hostile campaign against Iraq have been clear since the beginning of the past year. The Iraqi position, might, and pan-Arab commitments have been the target of all the pressures of the U.S. Administrations and the colonialist West, as well as a target of Zionist threats. Also, the objectives of the enemy have nothing to do with international legitimacy.

The paper asserts that Iraq is powerful, strong, and committed to its nation's causes and to the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem. The paper also notes that Iraq poses an obstacle to the schemes of U.S. domination. This, the paper says, created a hindrance as big as the Arab nation itself.

The paper asserts that the Iraqi bulwark is contributing to pan-Arab revival and represents hope and a great confidence pouring into the hearts and arteries of the Arab sons, who have felt the power to achieve their objectives of liberation, freedom, unity, and progress.

The paper adds that the stand of the Arab masses and their forces throughout the last quarter of 1990 until this moment terrifies Bush and Shamir and all the small agents who are trembling inside their burrows after having lost their honor, dignity, and popular support.

Paper Says Bush Will Lose Everything

NC2701102691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Defense Ministry, says that the battle will not end as Bush wants but as the Iraqis and all Muslims and honorable people in the world want.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says the coming days will witness momentous events, and other arenas and times will be crucial. Bush will even lose what he already has. We will annul the illegitimate Zionist entity forever. The map of the Arab homeland will return to what it was before—an area of light and justice on earth. The Iraqis will display the victory sign with one hand and will wave the banner of Allah Akbar, supporter of the believers, with the other.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that the recent battles have proved that the enemy has made false claims, and the truth is that he primarily wants to strike at capable Iraq, the bastion of Arab steadfastness. The excuses he wanted to use to mislead the world are groundless and worthless. The full game has been exposed. The role of Zionism in this scheme, which aims to strengthen the Zionist entity and to earn more money from Arab oil through the evil amirs and seditious shayks, has also been exposed. These funds will eventually go into the Jewish treasury, for which Bush and Shamir hold the keys.

The newspaper explains that all these facts confirm Iraq's theory about the totality of the battle and about upsetting the balances of forces which still pursue an unsuccessful policy to contain the Arab region gradually, steal the Arab wealth, and deprive the sons of the nation of this wealth.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that Iraq's strength, consisting of its struggling sons who are defending it and offering great epics of heroism and resolve for history, will bring an end to the imperialist hegemony over the Arab nation once and for all.

Paper: Technology Cannot Defeat 'Iraqi Resolve'

NC2701011091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—In today's editorial, AL-QADISIYAH ridicules the reliance by the United States and its allies on their much-vaunted technology to defeat the strong Iraqi resolve.

The paper says that the same resolve will encounter the enemies when the ground confrontation begins.

The paper says that the days that have elapsed in the great duel, the mother of all battles, have proved that the Iraqis are the sons of a nation that is not to be shaken by conspiracies and whose resolve and determination are not to be weakened by all the plots concocted by the enemies and all the weapons and missiles they use to execute these plots.

AL-QADISIYAH denounces the brutal raids waged by the United States and its allies against Iraqi cities and residential areas. The paper says that Bush and his evil henchmen have made this cowardly act a key element in fulfilling their venomous desire to break the resolve of the Iraqis and their historic leadership. However, the past few days have proved that technology alone, no matter how advanced and sophisticated it may be, cannot achieve its material and logistical aims unless it is backed by strong resolve and firm faith in the justice of the cause for which the battle is being waged.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that all the available evidence indicates that the force of evil assembled in the land of Islamic sanctities is afraid of actual confrontation with the force of faith represented by the Iraqi Armed Forces.

The paper concludes by saying that Iraq is determined, under the leadership of the knight Saddam Husayn, to win this battle for the Iraqis and the honorable Arabs. Iraqi will make this a long battle for the enemies, a battle that will make day and night perfectly indistinguishable.

Determination To Continue Fight Stressed

NC2601152091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed that the greater and more decisive the battle of the mother of battles looks the greater the Iraqis' enthusiasm and the deeper their faith in waging it. They feel that this confrontation is historic and worthy of sacrifice. In today's editorial, the paper says that the sons of Iraq are looking forward to achieving their great aspirations of defending the dear homeland, liberating the sanctities, opening the way to Palestine, purging the Arab homeland of corrupt Arab rulers, and ushering in a new stage in the life of the Arab nation and mankind in which the oppressive forces cannot impose their will and illegitimate interests on others.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the battle Iraq is waging against the evil throng led by the United States is characterized as comprehensive in terms of its tools, arenas, and goals. The current confrontation is between two forces: The first expresses the peoples' will to have free and independent options and to choose their own lifestyles. The second is an oppressive force seeking hegemony and to colonize the world. This force assembled lackeys and followers to implement parts of its plans.

Al-JUMHURIYAH asserted that no matter what methods the United States uses in its aggression against Iraq in infringing on the national and pan-Arab interests or in affecting our people's morale, now that the war has started the United States will not control its next phases, course, or results. The paper says that the United States; its allies, who are foreign evildoers; and their small local followers are launching a premeditated aggression against a people who have experience in dealing with, absorbing, and responding to challenges. These people are fighting on their land in defense of a clear issue under a leadership experienced in difficult situations. Therefore, there is a great difference between an army defending an issue it believes in and sees worthy of sacrifice and a throng of vagabonds and thieves who have gathered to plunder the wealth of others and to infringe on their sovereignty prompted by an evil propensity to colonize and dominate the world.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iraq is handling the showdown calmly and firmly because it is confident of the outcome and is certain that its sons' determination cannot be affected by psychological war tricks and methods of intimidation. The enemies should understand that these tricks and methods should not have been used on the Iraqi people who are experienced and patient. In conclusion, the paper notes the impatience of the leaders of aggression and the participants, who had hoped for a small battle, saying that they have found out that they are being led into a war that is too difficult and costly to bear. Their disappointment and frustration will increase as time goes by and as each of the next phases of the long battle begins. The invaders will be slaughtered on Iraq's doorsteps, and then those who planned the aggression and took part in it will realize their enormous mistake.

Kurdish Radio Reports Missiles on Turkish Border

LD3001074691 Tehran IRNA in English 0633 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Mahabad, W. Azarbaijan Prov., Jan. 30, IRNA—Iraq has moved several missile launching pads to its border with Turkey.

'Voice of People of Iraqi Kurdistan', a radio run by an opposition Iraqi Kurdish group, monitored here said Tuesday evening that the Iraqi forces in a bid to repel a surprise attack from Turkey have reinforced their defence lines on Iraq-Turkey border and have mounted several missile launching pads on "Zakhu" and "Amadi", bordering Turkey.

The radio quoting sources from inside Iraq said that the ground-to-ground missiles are ready to be fired.

Exiles Report Failed Coup Attempt Against Saddam

AU3001091191 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 30 Jan 91 p 6

["SC" report: "Troops Wanted To Overthrow Saddam"]

[Text] Munich—The "Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq," a Tehran-based umbrella organization of different exiled opposition groups, citing Jordanian military circles in Amman, is spreading reports that while on a march from Ramadi to Basra an Iraqi Army unit made an attempt to overthrow Saddam Husayn without bloodshed. They allegedly occupied a radio and television station in Baghdad during a power outage. However, attempts to restore the connection with the main power supply failed. After two hours, units of Saddam's Republican Guard ended the occupation with bloodshed.

Seven soldiers, including two generals, who were also high-ranking members of the Ba'th Party, surrendered and were immediately executed, the report said. Other senior officers and party officials who had participated in previous coups met the same fate. Iraq confirmed these executions but denied the real reason for the executions, a representative of the opposition council told SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG. Resistance fighters carried out sabotage acts in several cases and called for the overthrow of the "dictator and war criminal Saddam."

Baghdad's assertion that the allies attacked holy shrines of the Shiites in Karbala' and al-Najaf is not true. This can be seen from the photographs that Baghdad published to support its claim, the exiled Iraqis stressed. The chairman of the opposition alliance, Imam Bakir al-Hakim, assessed this "lie as a futile attempt by Saddam Husayn to draw the Muslims in the world to their side through emotional tricks." Besides two Kurdish parties, the opposition alliance includes central councils of the Sunnis and Shiites, as well as representatives of the Turkish and Iranian minority.

Iraq's news agency INA claimed, according to DPA, that the imam of the Great Mosque of Riyadh and his brother were shot by Saudi policemen after they had called for the killing of the family of King Fahd in the Friday sermon.

Katyusha Barrages on Security Zone Reported

'Heaviest' Attack in Recent Years

TA2901081491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Dozens of Katyusha rockets were fired early this morning at the security zone in southern Lebanon. They exploded north of the Lebanese-Israeli border fence. No one was injured.

Senior Northern Command officers told our correspondent Menahem Horowitz that this was the heaviest Katyusha barrage in the security zone in recent years.

Second Round Fired

TA3001091991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets were fired at the security zone in southern Lebanon last night. Sources at the UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters told our correspondents Hayim Hecht and Menahem Horowitz that the missiles landed in the Marj 'Uyun area. No damage was caused.

UN officers from the Norwegian contingent said that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery batteries returned fire at the sources of attack. This is the second time in the past 24 hours that Katyusha rockets have been launched at the security zone.

IDF Responds; Shells Village, Camp

TA2901211291 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2100 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery units this evening shelled terrorist bases north of the security strip. The shelling lasted approximately 30 minutes. Our forces sustained no casualties.

The targets that were shelled served as the home base for terrorists to organize attacks in Israel and the security zone in Southern Lebanon.

The UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters has reported to our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the artillery shelled two sectors: the village of Habbush, north of al-Nabatiyah, and the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp north of Tyre.

Lebanese civilians have told UN officers that many flares illuminated the skies over the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp and that Israeli Navy boats participated in the shelling. IDF helicopters hovered above but did not take part in the attack.

Sources Claim 'Arafat Ordered Attack

TA3001084191 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Jan 91 p 6

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Palestinian sources in the territories have said that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is the one who gave the order to open a front against Israel from southern Lebanon. They claim that 'Arafat telephoned the order to Fatah commanders in southern Lebanon two days ago. Following his conversation with 'Arafat, Fatah commander Zayd Wahbah announced that his men were going to carry out bombing attacks deep inside Israeli territory. Yesterday, after the katyusha salvos, Wahbah declared that he had carried out 'Arafat's orders.

The sources explained that the attack was meant not only to open another front in the Gulf war, but was primarily an attempt by 'Arafat to raise the level of tension between Israel and Syria in order to weaken the coalition. [passage omitted]

PLO Attempting To Aid Iraq

TA3001042791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0400 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Sources in the defense establishment have said that the firing of katyusha rockets at the security zone yesterday is directly linked to Iraq. According to them, the PLO is doing all that it possibly can to revive terrorism, and the katyusha barrage was meant to express the contribution of 'Arafat and his aides to Saddam's war efforts.

Experts have told our army affairs correspondent that the PLO leaders have been calling for terror through all possible ways to help Iraq. They noted that the curfews imposed on the territories are making terrorist acts in Israel very difficult.

Official Equates Area With H2, H3

TA2901120291 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Referring to the recent Katyusha attack on south Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, said there is a partnership between Saddam Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat; however, Israel's policy of restraint is not valid for Lebanon, said Lubrani.

[Begin Lubrani recording] As far as I am concerned, the policy of restraint does not apply to either Lebanon or south Lebanon, and certainly not to Beirut, Ba'labakk, Sidon, and Tyre. For us, southern Lebanon is H2 and H3. Therefore, anyone who expects us to sit and wait for them to come here and do anything they please is greatly mistaken. The PLO activities in the framework of the area close to us should be viewed with an eye to the fact that the PLO has decided to share Saddam Husayn's destiny.

In this regard, I would like to add that I have no doubt that most of the residents of southern Lebanon do not take a favorable view of this PLO activity against Israel. They tried to prevent it in the past, although they may have been unsuccessful. Somehow, we should make it clear that we, too, are in the region. [end recording]

Palestinian Leader Detained for Aiding Iraq

TA2901225091 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2205 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Sari Nusaybah, a resident of East Jerusalem, was today placed under a six-month administrative detention, on an administrative decree. His detention came as a result of his acts of coordinating defense information for Iraqi intelligence, mainly during the period that followed the missile strikes on central Israel. Sari Nusaybah served as a focal point for transferring defense information to various elements—including PLO elements abroad—for Iraqi intelligence. Sari Nusaybah is the son of Anwar Nusaybah, a former Jordanian defense minister, and one of the most prominent Palestinian intellectual leaders. His name is mentioned as one of the leaders of the intifadah.

Several minutes ago we heard the reasons for his detention from Dani Nave, Defense Minister Moshe Arens' media adviser:

[Begin recording] [Nave] The detention of Sari Nusaybah came because he was gathering and coordinating the transfer of defense information to Iraqi intelligence. Nusaybah did that mainly during the recent period, following the Iraqi missile salvos at civilian populations in Israel. As a matter of fact, he served as a focal point for the transfer of defense information to various elements, including PLO elements abroad, for Iraqi intelligence.

[Menashe] Did your decision to detain him follow an investigation?

[Nave] Naturally such a detention comes only after a thorough investigation and a careful examination of the information obtained and the data we have, once we have clear and convincing information that the man did indeed do what is attributed to him, as I noted before.

[Menashe] Was this the defense minister's decision?

[Nave] The defense minister authorized it. With your permission, Karmela, I believe that at this point we need to examine the broader aspects of the issue. We are witnessing a phenomenon wherein the PLO has placed itself to the right of Saddam Husayn; or, if you will, Yasir 'Arafat has sided with Saddam. The PLO is making extensive efforts to make its contribution to Saddam, to the Iraqi war. The katyusha rockets that came from south Lebanon last night is an expression of that. There are other things, the nature of which I cannot detail at the moment, that are clear examples of the effort the PLO has been making to aid Saddam Husayn. [end recording]

When asked why an administrative detention was used, Dani Nave said that disclosing the sources of information at this time could be problematic and sensitive.

Arrest Called Exploitation

TA3001054891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 0540 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. Nusaybah's friend, Faysal al-Husayni, told our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari this morning that Nusaybah's detention is founded on unreasonable charges. This is a miserable effort to exploit the state of war to execute such a measure, said al-Husayni.

Part of 'Smear Campaign'

TA3001120791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1105 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] The residents of the territories were amazed and almost in a state of shock over the detention of Sari Nusaybah. Not all of them know about it, because some of the papers have yet to report it.

At any rate the first public reaction was by AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah, who, together with Faysal al-Husayni, are the only members of the Palestinian leadership in the territories who are still out of prison. Those arrested are Radwan Abu-'Ayyash and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, and now Sari Nusaybah.

Commenting on the actual arrest, Hanna Sinyurah asked how could Sari Nusaybah—who, as a resident of Abu-Dis, was under curfew for the entire period since the beginning of the war—have committed the acts attributed to him. This from the technical aspect. As for the general political aspect, Hanna Sinyurah asserted that this is an attempt to besmirch the local leadership as part of Israel's smear campaign against the PLO, designed so that after the war, the Israeli Government will be able to claim that it has no one with whom to negotiate.

Shamir Sees No Linkage in U.S.-Soviet Statement

TA3001123091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1207 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Imman'uel Halperin on 30 January in the garden of the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—recorded]

[Text] [Halperin] What is your reaction to the joint U.S.-Soviet statement that was issued tonight and that again creates a kind of linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

[Shamir] According to the explanations that were given by State Department officials, the United States has not said anything new in this declaration. There is no linkage, and they have not stipulated any new principles in addition to those that they have already stated and that were already known. I would say that as far as we are concerned, this statement's shortcoming lies in the fact that a political move which concerns Israel's fate and future was carried out without consulting us or even informing us beforehand of what they were about to do. Regarding the actual content of the statement, I must admit that I have not yet studied the communique. It is a new statement, and we will study it over the coming days and then we will see.

[Halperin] And what of the fact that the Americans and the Soviets are once more basically telling Saddam Husayn: Announce that you are getting out of Kuwait and that will be that?

[Shamir] No, they are saying: Get out of Kuwait and take practical steps in this regard. I imagine that they will not allow themselves to be misled. This constitutes no change. We are familiar with the thought processes of the U.S. leadership. We heard the President yesterday, and I hope that the United States is not changing its mind.

Statement Called 'Slap in Face'

TA3001101891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in English 1005 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman, who heads the Tehiya Party, says the joint U.S.-Soviet statement on the Middle East is a slap in the face for Israel. Ne'eman says it is the direct outcome of the image of Israel as an object of pity, mistakenly being projected as a result of the government's restraint policy. The minister hoped there was still time to repair the damage caused.

Shamir on 'Active Role' in Response to Attacks

TA2901183891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening that Israel is highly interested in playing an active role and in responding to the attacks on it. However, the composition of the anti-Iraq coalition is preventing us from doing so without prior coordination with the United States. We hope that when the time comes, such coordination will be reached, said the prime minister in a meeting with Pierre Mauroy, President Mitterrand's envoy.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister noted that Israel is interested in putting an end to the missile attacks on it from west Iraq and that we, together with the United States, are looking for the means to do that. Mr. Shamir expressed the hope that Israel will find the way to accomplish that mission.

Pierre Mauroy told the prime minister that the entire French public firmly denounces Saddam Husayn's attacks on Israel and are full of admiration for Israel's military and moral steadfastness and the nation's proud endurance. France will do everything so that the international coalition achieves its goals as fast as possible, Mauroy said.

Jordan Reportedly Passing Intelligence to Baghdad

TA2901143091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] Jordan's support for Iraq has reached the stage that Jordanian Army elements are transmitting intelligence information to Baghdad.

The senior political sources in Jerusalem who reported this also said there is growing concern in Jerusalem about King Husayn's position and the stability of his regime. The monarch's repeated announcements that he would take action against whoever violates his country's airspace coupled with his disregard for the Scuds that fly over Jordan worry political elements. Some political elements view his position as directed against Israel.

In the past few days, after the failure of the U.S. envoy's mission to Jordan, the British, who view themselves as the king's patron, tried to talk with him but also failed. Nevertheless, the political sources report, the U.S. Administration continues to ask Israel to avoid any action that might lead to a sharp reaction by the king.

There are those who believe that the king has decided to ride the Islamic tiger, believing that otherwise he will lose his throne.

Jordan To Be Held Accountable

TA3001082791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Jordan and Iraq apparently are stepping up diplomatic and intelligence cooperation, amid indications that King Husayn is taking more risks in currying favor with a public that is staunchly pro-Iraq, Israeli analysts and foreign reports say. [passage omitted]

Israeli officials say that Iraq has transferred the bulk of its diplomatic activity to Amman. "Iraqi Foreign Ministry activity is now essentially centered in Jordan," one knowledgeable official said. [passage omitted]

Israeli officials have rejected recent Saudi reports that Jordan is smuggling Scud missile launchers into western Iraq. [passage omitted]

Husayn is also allowing the distribution of thousands of rifles to civilians volunteering for the civil guard, which is supposed to protect the homeland from Israeli attack.

While the rifles are collected by dusk each day, Israeli officials say the policy is contrary to Husayn's traditional practice of carefully entrusting security to his own elite forces.

One fear here is that some Jordanians of Palestinian origin will seek to use the rifles to attempt raids against

Israel. When such raids occurred several months ago, Husayn met with border area commanders to prevent further infiltrations.

Israeli officials have said that Jordan will be held accountable for its support for Iraq.

'Terrorist' Killed Infiltrating Through Jordan

TA3001124891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1215 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] A terrorist was killed during a clash between an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] contingent and a terrorist squad near the al-Damiyyah bridge in the Jordan Rift Valley. Our forces sustained no casualties. Here is army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe with more details:

The clash with the terrorists occurred at around 0630 [0430 GMT] this morning north of the al-Damiyyah bridge, opposite the settlement of Argaman. An IDF contingent, composed of reserve soldiers, arrived at the scene after a hole was discovered in the border fence. The soldiers encountered a terrorist squad which opened fire on the troops. The soldiers returned the fire, and one terrorist was killed. A second terrorist managed to escape.

The terrorists had crossed the Jordan River, walked approximately 4 km, and reached the border fence. They then attempted to infiltrate into Israel, but were caught by the IDF patrol. One terrorist was killed. Two Kalashnikov rifles were found near the dead terrorist's body. The dead man was wearing Jordanian Army fatigues. The terrorists had apparently intended to carry out an attack inside Israel.

The commander of the Central Command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, arrived and debriefed the soldiers. Maj. Gen. Mordekhay commended the soldiers and said they acted quickly and efficiently.

Over the last few months, there have been several attempts by terrorists and Jordanian soldiers to infiltrate Israel through Jordan and perpetrate attacks. Today's attempt joins the barrage of katyusha rockets in the security zone last night. It is believed that all of these are directly connected to Baghdad. The terrorist organizations are doing their utmost to revive the terror campaign.

Jordan River Bridges Closed at Crisis Outbreak

TA2901195691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The Jordan River bridges were closed with the outbreak of the Gulf war, the Defense Ministry confirmed today in reaction to remarks by Jordanian officials.

The Jordanians reported that hundreds of Palestinians are waiting in Jordan to return to the territories, but are stranded because the bridges were closed on Israel's orders.

The Defense Ministry clarified tonight that with the outbreak of the Gulf war, several security measures were adopted, including the closure of the bridges. Nevertheless, at the discretion of the Civil Administration, permission is granted to cross the bridges in special cases.

Army Commander on Jordan, Home Front Readiness

TA2901063891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, said that Israel is alertly following developments in Jordan in order to prevent a situation in which an Iraqi force would enter this country and try to act against Israel from its territory. At this stage there is no extraordinary activity on the Jordanian side, and the Jordanian Army is deployed in a defensive manner. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Major General Mordekhay said this at a meeting with Dan District town mayors in which he analyzed the lessons of the Iraqi missile hits and elaborated on preparations for Iraq's possible use of nonconventional weapons.

As for the territories, Maj. Gen. Yitzhaq Mordekhay said preparations are under way for the possibility of returning their residents to work in Israel, and that so far quiet has been maintained in the territories.

The mayors noted with appreciation their cooperation with the security elements over recent events in the Dan District.

Brigadier General Arnon Ben-'Ami, the Central Command's home front commander, who attended the meeting also addressed himself to the relationship between the towns and the Central Command.

Arens Says Iraqi Attacks Will Not Last

TA2901160991 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dan Shilon in the studio—live]

[Text] [Shilon] What should the fact that you can spend time with us now indicate to us?

[Arens] It should show you that part of a minister's role, especially that of defense minister in these days, is to make television and radio appearances. I do not have any choice; I have to find time for it.

[Shilon] The main question is—and I believe most people are asking it these days—how long will this situation last?

[Arens] I wish I could tell you with certainty. I, too, would like to know how long it will go on. My estimation is that it will not take long to defeat Saddam Husayn, and I believe it will take less time to eliminate his ability to launch missiles at Israel.

[Shilon] What time frame are we discussing?

[Arens] It is difficult for me to say. The Americans are saying it will take months to defeat him. I believe they will do it faster.

[Shilon] In a number of days, weeks?

[Arens] It is difficult to say. This is a unique war. It is not the Iraqi people that are at war; it all depends on a single man. If he collapses tomorrow, if he disappears tomorrow, if he is killed tomorrow, then the war will end immediately.

[Shilon] You said in the cabinet this week that Saddam Husayn has already crossed the red line, from our point of view. What is the operational significance of that statement when it is made by the defense minister?

[Arens] The operational significance is that he declared war on us the moment he attacked us. We are in a state of war with him, and we will act accordingly.

[Shilon] But we are not retaliating.

[Arens] How and when to react are part of the tactics, and if you wish, part of the strategy, but we will respond.

[Shilon] Ari'el Sharon, your party and cabinet colleague, said today that the missile attacks against us can be stopped immediately. Do you agree with him?

[Arens] I cannot argue with my cabinet colleague and certainly not in the media. I can do it in the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. I, therefore, do not wish to dispute that statement. In general, I would say that paralyzing the ability to launch missiles against Israel from west Iraq, which is a very large area, perhaps the size of Israel, is not a simple task. The Americans have devoted forces to that task and are operating massively day and night. They have still not achieved the expected results, but they are trying. I would not like to say that we can do it better. If you ask any group of pilots, and pilots are usually proud and courageous people, then they will say they can do it better than others. On the other hand, I have no doubt that we can contribute to that effort.

[Shilon] How far does U.S. activity there restrict our ability to respond? How far are we taking that activity into consideration and thereby restraining ourselves?

[Arens] Everybody can understand that. If U.S. forces are operating in that air space, any action by us must be coordinated so there are no clashes or uncontrolled encounters between our aircraft and theirs.

[Shilon] That might be the catch. The Americans can continue to bomb for one or two months, or longer, but at the same time they watch the Super Bowl, and their President goes to Camp David on Saturday, while we are sitting here in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem, waiting for missiles to fall on us.

[Arens] The situation you described will not continue for two months, and not even one month.

[Shilon] Can you explain yourself?

[Arens] I estimate that this situation—in which we are neutralized, or inactive, while they retain the ability to launch missiles against us—will not continue for another month.

[Shilon] Before you entered the studio, our next interviewee said that the country is very lucky that the Likud, rather than the Alignment, is in power because had the Alignment been in government and adopted the same policy, you would have been the first to demand that the missile problem be solved immediately. Is that correct?

[Arens] That is a very serious charge against me. You are hinting, somewhat ironically I assume, that I would have behaved differently and acted differently had I not been defense minister. I would like to believe that would not have been the case, that my actions are based on what my brain tells me is right and that I would have thought exactly the same way and said exactly the same things had I been a kibitzer.

[Shilon] Even people who have expressed very moderate positions, such as 'Ezer Weizman and Mordekhay Gur, have changed their minds over the past two days. They are now saying that perhaps the time has come to retaliate, that we cannot suffer any more.

[Arens] Are you asking me or telling me?

[Shilon] I am asking how you respond to such people who up to now have welcomed restraint?

[Arens] A lack of patience in the current situation, I believe, characterizes all of us. It is simply an uncomfortable situation, and in many aspects even an unnatural one, but when we look at the map and see that to reach west Iraq Israeli aircraft must cross a third country—we do not have a common border with Iraq, perhaps luckily so, but that makes the present situation more difficult—while the Americans are currently operating in the field, we realize that very close coordination with them is required to enable us to operate there as well. It then becomes clear that there are considerations that must be taken into account. The problem has to be resolved in a balanced and wise way.

[Shilon] Let us try to understand Saddam Husayn's latest threats. He has referred to some surprise he has up his sleeve in case his back is pushed to the wall. Do you know what he is referring to?

[Arens] We have been hearing similar threats from Saddam Husayn for a long time, even before the war broke out, and before the Gulf crisis started. It was uttered for the first time on 2 April 1990. I suppose that there are elements of Middle East exaggeration in his remarks, but at the same time, we are not dismissing the dangers. Each of us goes about with his gas mask because we want to be ready for such a possibility as well.

[Shilon] Is it possible that he has more than chemical warfare? Perhaps nuclear arms?

[Arens] I do not think so.

[Shilon] You do not think so or you know that he does not?

[Arens] None of us knows with certainty what is happening in Baghdad, but as far as we know, he does not.

[Shilon] He does not have nuclear arms?

[Arens] As far as we know, no. He would like to have them; he tried to have such a capability. Our Air Force destroyed his nuclear reactor in 1981. To the best of our knowledge, he has not achieved that capability.

[Shilon] What about biological weapons?

[Arens] I do not know, but I doubt that he has anything that could be effective.

[Shilon] What is the effectiveness of those weapons?

[Arens] Biological weapons?

[Shilon] Yes.

[Arens] First, it is hard for us to say, because luckily we have never experienced such weapons. I believe the effect is limited, and as far as I understand, it is also not immediate. It does not have to be fatal, but let us hope we do not have to study that problem.

[Shilon] You yourself said that he has chemical weapons. The question is how will he deliver them to harm Israel, if God forbid, he decides to do so? From Israel's point of view, does use of such weapons mean that he has gone one notch up? What would that call for?

[Arens] It is obvious that if he does that, it would bring about a new situation, one in which nonconventional arms are being used. What will we do about it? I believe that is something both you and I are not interested in making public through the media.

[Shilon] But there will be retaliation?

[Arens] Yes, whatever happens.

[Shilon] Even for what he has already done to us?

[Arens] He attacked us and there will be a response.

[Shilon] Why were the Patriots not used last night?

[Arens] The Patriot missiles defend relatively limited areas in close proximity to the battery, and as you know, yesterday's Scud fell in Dayr Ballut, which is relatively far from the Dan District. It is not within the area covered by the Patriot batteries.

[Shilon] Is the deployment of the Patriots selective? Are there certain areas that get preferential treatment?

[Arens] The areas to which we gave preference are the Dan District and the Haifa area.

[Shilon] Why did Israel discover the Patriots only in recent months? Why did we not think of them a year ago?

[Arens] A year ago the Patriot did not have the capability of dealing with ballistic missiles; it is a recent upgrading. We have, however, been in contact with the United States since September. We asked for Patriot batteries. The problem was that because of the U.S. deployment in the Gulf, the United States repeatedly refused to send the batteries. They said they had their own needs. The moment missiles began falling here, I am glad to say, the Patriots arrived quickly.

[Shilon] What dividend is Israel already receiving from the Americans, in equipment and intelligence, for its current policy?

[Arens] I would not call it a dividend. Our policy serves Israeli interests without any expectation of dividends and is not formed for the sake of dividends. We will do what is right for Israel's security interests. We will not do anything that we do not believe is right just to receive some dividend.

[Shilon] I will ask the question in a positive way. What is the extent of Israeli-U.S. cooperation in the fields of intelligence and military procurement?

[Arens] Cooperation with the United States is growing closer, and at a relatively fast pace in recent weeks. The Patriot batteries are, in fact, the only weapons systems we received recently. In the talks we conducted in Washington we discussed the weapons systems that we require and that might be supplied to us. At this stage they have not been supplied to us. I believe that is largely due to U.S. concentration on their own needs for their deployment in Saudi Arabia.

[Shilon] Do you feel that the Arab coalition behind the United States is showing cracks, in view of the Syrian statements today?

[Arens] I do not think so. I have the impression that Syrian President al-Asad, the Saudi leaders, and Egyptian President Mubarak, are very interested in Saddam Husayn's downfall for their own interests, perhaps even more than the European countries.

[Shilon] Many katyushas were lobbed at Israel today. How will we respond to that?

[Arens] Again, I will not go into details about what our response will be. A lot of katyushas were directed at Israel. As far as I know, not a single katyusha fell inside Israel, but it was close, and we will of course have to deal with that problem.

[Shilon] I have just remembered that I forgot to ask you something else about the operational aspect of the Gulf war. We hear about the Iraqi pilots who deserted to Iran in huge numbers. Do you also share the U.S. concern that it is an Iraqi-Iranian ploy?

[Arens] There might be contacts about that or perhaps even certain arrangements, but I believe we should assume that those aircraft will no longer participate in the war. If that assumption is correct, then there has been a significant decrease in Iraq's military potential.

[Shilon] We heard on the news that it was decided to return more students to school following consultations between the prime minister and the education and culture minister, with the knowledge of the defense minister. Is it just semantics, or is it important, that you were just informed? Or do you confirm that is how the situation should be?

[Arens] No, it is not semantics. I was informed; I did not voice any reservations; it is not within my responsibilities. I am not responsible for everything that happens in the country. The educational system is the responsibility of the education and culture minister. He was in touch with me on that issue.

[Shilon] How do you react to your party colleague, the Tel Aviv mayor, who labeled Tel Aviv residents who left town as deserters?

[Arens] I did not hear him repeat that expression.

[Shilon] He said he does not take it back.

[Arens] Well, I would not have used such an expression.

[Shilon] Are you prepared to say anything else about those who leave their homes?

[Arens] You are again talking about a party colleague of mine, who, I believe, is an excellent mayor, and I do not want to debate with him via the media. But I would not have said it.

[Shilon] Where are you spending the nights?

[Arens] I am at work. I do not go home. I am in the office.

[Shilon] Do you feel comfortable when we hear the air raid siren?

[Arens] I feel uncomfortable, of course, just as all Israelis do.

[Shilon] When we sit in front of the radio microphones and broadcast reassuring messages, are we broadcasting Valium pills, or are we really reflecting a true situation, one in which things are clearing up?

[Arens] I believe you are doing a fine job.

[Shilon] I was not looking for a compliment. I wanted to know if we are touching on the real thing. Are things falling into place?

[Arens] Look, first of all we are in a difficult and nerve rattling situation and we must be calm. There is no other solution. We are facing a battle, and we know how to do that. The public proves that, day and night, and the media also proves it. The calm is part of our war effort in this situation.

[Shilon] How will it end?

[Arens] First, it will end. All wars end. I would not like to be in Saddam Husayn's place. He is being pounded day and night, and it is important for us to remember that each day and night his military capability, both conventional and nonconventional, that threatened Israel is being reduced. The Americans are doing it and that is good.

[Shilon] What is the Greek saying you like to use?

[Arens] Nothing bad lasts too long.

[Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 29 January says: "Minister Arens disclosed that Iraqi underground hangers were damaged in recent days and that the aircraft there must have been hit. Referring to destruction of the missile launchers, the defense minister said that mission is easier for the Americans because they are closer to the location and because they have the means, which we do not." The report also said that in the last cabinet meeting, the defense minister asked for a supplementary budget of 300 million shekels by the end of the month. The prime minister will raise the issue at the next cabinet meeting, where it will be resolved, according to the report.]

Pressure for Reaction to Iraq Reportedly Grows

TA2901170191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Jan 91 p A10

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpts] Senior Likud officials are stepping up their pressure on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to order the IDF [Israel Defense Force] to respond immediately and with full force to the missile attacks. The officials belong to the Likud's top ranks, but are avoiding public disclosure of their position in view of Shamir's order not to present differing positions in the media.

Moderate elements in the Likud are exerting opposing pressures on Shamir to continue to exercise restraint. They were joined by the Labor Party's defense forum, which includes former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, which sent the prime minister clear messages calling on him to continue Israel's restraint and low profile policy as it has done up to now. [passage omitted]

One of the Likud's senior officials who is demanding retaliation told MA'ARIV that it is not true that Israel is incapable of taking action to remove the missile threat. "Israel can do a great deal," he said. "We are capable of limiting the danger to a great extent." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 29 January, in a separate report by the same correspondent, on the same page says: "Cracks in the united Labor Party position, which supports the restraint over the missile attacks, were uncovered yesterday when three Knesset Members—'Ezer Weizman, Mordekhay Gur, and Dr. Mikha'el Bar-Zohar—expresed their positions.

"Weizman came out in support of Israeli retaliation when he told circles close to him that Israel's thunderous silence only weakens it in the Arab world and leads to a loss of credibility. In response to a question of whether Israel is still capable of doing what the Americans are incapable of, he said: 'Israel is certainly capable of doing a lot more than the Americans to get rid of the missile threat.'

"He criticized Yitzhaq Rabin and expressed surprise about what Rabin did about the missile threat during the five and a half years he was defense minister."]

Egypt's Khalil: Israeli Role in War Not Warranted

TA3001115691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil in Cairo by Ya'aqov Rosenberg; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khalil] I think that Saddam Husayn really put himself in a corner and I think that he has no other option in front of him except, you know, continuing this war. I don't think that he is willing to leave Kuwait, and he didn't show any kind of moderation whatsoever. So I think that Saddam Husayn will not really respond to any appeal to leave Kuwait and have an end to this war.

[Rosenberg] The way President Bush seems to put it—that Saddam Husayn seems to have a choice of leaving Kuwait or perhaps losing power—do you think Saddam would rather lose power than withdraw?

[Khalil] No, I don't think that Saddam Husayn will ever withdraw from Kuwait. He is determined, you know, to stay or leave Kuwait by force.

[Rosenberg] How do you think the war is progressing? Here, in Israel, there is a lot of concern regarding how long Saddam can continue the missile attacks and his arsenal of Scud-B missiles. From Cairo, do you think Saddam will last several months, or do you think that Saddam is on his last legs?

[Khalil] It all depends on the way, you know, the coalition forces are going to wage the war against Saddam Husayn after that. And about the Scud missiles, it has been demonstrated that these are completely ineffective strategically. They are only used, you know, as a kind of a terrorist weapon, but not as an effective strategic war weapon. So I don't think that Saddam Husayn has any choice in this war. It might be prolonged, you know, to try to minimize the casualties of a land war, and it might extend an aerial war to try to demolish most of his land power, but I think the end is completely not in his favor.

[Rosenberg] Here, in Israel, there is a sort of feeling that sooner or later Israel will have to retaliate if the Iraqi missile attacks continue. How do you think the anti-Iraq Arab coalition would respond to this?

[Khalil] I usually do not like to interfere in another country's way of decisions or anything like that, but I can say that if Israel would make a decision to retaliate, they said that the timing of retaliation and method of retaliation is the decision of the Israeli leaders. However, I think that these Scud missiles, as long as Saddam Husayn does not use poison gas or biological warheads or any mass destructive warheads, they do not really constitute a kind of threat or a kind of damage that would presently warrant the participation of Israel in the war. I think the Israelis have to really keep the restraint which they have shown until now.

[Rosenberg] What is the view in Egypt regarding how long the government of President Mubarak can continue to stay in the anti-Arab [as heard] coalition?

[Khalil] Well, I think Mr. Mubarak has really demonstrated the kind of leadership, you know, that is supported by the masses of the people in Egypt and that he is determined to stay in the coalition. There is no question whatsoever that Egypt might really change her position.

Sharon Gives First Remarks on Gulf Situation

TA2901141291 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1210 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Here are the first remarks on the Gulf war by Minister Ari'el Sharon, who has remained silent since the war broke out. He said Israel has the capability of preventing missiles from being launched from Iraq or decreasing the number of launches significantly, but he refused to discuss Israel's self-restraint directly. Our correspondent Nati Silberman heard Minister Sharon's remarks when he toured Karmi'el:

Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon did not surprise his listeners, and, despite the volley of questions, he refused to refer to the Israeli Government's restraint in the face of the missile attacks. Israel has the ability to retaliate, he said.

[Begin Sharon recording] I would like to stress that it is not a question of revenge or retaliation, but of prevention. Israel can prevent or at least reduce very significantly the launching of Iraqi missiles from west Iraq. [end recording]

The other things I have to say on that subject I will tell the prime minister personally, Sharon said.

[Begin Sharon recording] I constantly express my views on those issues to the prime minister; certainly to the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, which convenes frequently; and to the Army commanders. I do not deal with plans, and I am not in charge of presenting plans. I expressed my views in the clearest way, and I will certainly not talk about what should be done or when to do it. [end recording]

A few hours before the minister's visit to the north a barrage of dozens of katyushas were lobbed. The minister compared what is happening in the center of the country now with what happened in the north in 1982 [when the area came under constant shelling from Lebanon].

Protective Measures Lacking

TA2901163991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon says that Israel is not taking the necessary measures to protect the lives of its citizens. Our correspondent Sarit Mikha'eli reports that Minister Sharon was speaking at a closed meeting with members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He noted that no one in the country wants war, but we are already involved in one, and we have the ability to take the necessary steps to react to the Iraqi attacks. After his remarks Minister Sharon refused to respond to reporters' questions on Gulf issues.

Urges Taking Action

TA2901184491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon says that Israel has the capability to prevent, or at least substantially decrease, the threat of missiles fired at it from west Iraq. Interviewed on the radio, Minister Sharon said that this is not a question of retribution or retaliation, but of prevention. We have an extraordinary Air Force and a wonderful Army. Although the area in question is very large, it is distant from the main battlefield in the Gulf, and it endangers only Israel.

Minister Sharon emphasized that it is a mistake to say that Israel is not doing enough to protect itself from the missiles. The thing is, he said, that he believes Israel can and should take action against them inside Iraqi territory.

Groundwork Prepared for War Claims Against Iraq

TA3001085391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jan 91 p 10

[Report by Jonathan Schachter]

[Text] Ambassador to the UN Yoram Aridor has sent Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar a formal letter of complaint about Iraqi attacks to lay the groundwork for damage claims in any possible war crimes trials following the Gulf conflict.

The letter, detailing the "series of destructive and unprovoked" Iraqi missile attacks on civilian population areas of Israel, states that Israel reserves the right to call for a meeting of the Security Council over the issue, as well as reserving its right to act in self-defense.

While it is rare that Israel publicly issues such formal letters of complaint to the secretary-general, this one is seen as an important first step in the preparation for any war crimes trials that might be held in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

"From a legal point of view, if there is a tribunal set up at the end of these conflicts, it's important that we have catalogues, vis-a-vis the UN, the damages and the casualties that were incurred as a result of these attacks," an Israeli official told THE JERUSALEM POST.

The three-page letter, which was also circulated among UN member states, also calls for "appropriate and full reparations for Iraq's attacks," and calls upon all UN members to condemn the attacks and the resulting suffering and loss of life.

"These repeated unprovoked acts of aggression by Iraq constitute an illegal use of force, in clear breach of... the Charter of the United Nations," the communique continues.

Levi's Warnings on Syria Criticized

TA2901142091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] Leading political circles in Jerusalem expressed great surprise at the timing and bluntness of the declarations by Foreign Minister David Levi, who attacked Syria and its positions yesterday.

There is no reason now to involve Syria and open another front, even if his remarks are generally correct. Making such public statements at this time is more harmful than beneficial. The circles believe that, to a certain extent, Levi feels cut off from the decisionmaking and therefore he probably found it necessary to warn about something on which he had information and thereby "make headlines."

Update on 29 January Events in Territories

TA2901152391

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 29 January, in a pool report on page 12, states that "three cars were set on fire in Jerusalem last night." The report also states that "a Border Police patrol was attacked with stones and bottles" in East Jerusalem.

The report continues: "For the first time since a curfew was imposed on Khan Yunus 13 days ago, two local residents were injured during disturbances last night. The Arab sources who reported this said that locals had thrown stones at a group of visiting Civil Administration officials.

"Yesterday the curfew was lifted in several Gaza Strip refugee camps to enable residents to purchase food."

"A woman from the al-Burayj refugee camp in Gaza was yesterday given a summary trial in the 'Afula Magistrate's Court and sentenced to 15 months in prison, after a body search revealed she was carrying a long knife and pendants of the PLO flag."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 29 January, in a page 6 report by the correspondent in Nazareth, writes: "Yesterday the Valleys Police detained the imam of Jabal al-Dulah Mosque for questioning. He is suspected of inciting worshipers during last Friday's prayer." The imam "is also suspected of incitement against the United States and its allies, and of calling on the worshipers to show solidarity with Iraq and Saddam Husayn." The report adds that "the chairman of the Committee of Arab Councils, in an interview with the Voice of Israel's Arabic program, denounced the phenomenon and urged imams to use their mosques in the cause of peace, unity, and friendship, in accordance with Islamic teachings."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 29 January, in a page 20 report by Pinhas 'Inbari and ITIM, writes: "A leaflet signed by 'Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Supporters' that reflects a controversy in Hamas with regard to the Gulf war has been disseminated in the territories.

"While previous Hamas leaflets neither supported Iraq nor attacked Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the latest leaflet calls for the assassination of 'the traitors' Mubarak, Fahd, and al-Asad, and lauds the bombardment of Israeli cities by Saddam Husayn. The leaflet urges Palestinians to join in the 'decisive campaign' for victory or death."

The report also states: "UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) will today start distributing gas masks to some 18,000 local workers and their families in the West Bank. The masks were donated by the Swedish Government and their distribution has been coordinated with the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration."

Writing on the same issue, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 29 January, in a report by Jon Immanuel on page 10, adds: "the High Court yesterday turned downed a petition for the immediate distribution of gas masks to Palestinian prisoners, despite a claim that prison guards had received them while prisoners had not.

"The government argued that the Qetzi'ot detention camp in the Negev, which holds more than 80 percent of the prisoners, was not considered in danger of a gas attack, and therefore distribution of gas masks to prisoners there was not a high priority.

"The court said that the government's statement showed it was aware of its duties and will take steps as and when it sees fit."

Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew at 1210 GMT on 29 January carries a report by Arye Gus, saying: "When a Scud missile fell in the central district last night, panic broke out in several Arab settlements in Judaea and Samaria, where reverberations of the explosion were felt and heard, and where window panes shattered. Unlike at previous times, no one went up to the rooftops following the missile attack. Residents remained at home, and those who had gas masks used them."

Incident Cited in Al-Shati'; Leaflets Support Iraq

TA2901191291 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] A border policeman sustained slight facial injuries in the al-Shati' refugee camp when a rock hit him. An Arab resident of the camp was wounded by soldiers' gunfire when he tried to snatch a soldier's personal weapon. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a border policeman was taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon and was subsequently discharged. The Arab was hospitalized in al-Shifa' Hospital.

Our correspondent adds that there were few disturbances in al-Shati' today when the curfew was lifted to allow the residents to buy food. In other areas [in the territories] there was calm.

Two leaflets disseminated in Judaea and Samaria over the past few days express support for Iraq and strongly lambaste the United States, its allies, and Israel. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the leaflet distributed by Unified National Command of the Uprising, which supports the PLO, is addressed to international organizations, the United Nations, and the pope and that it calls for an end to the Persian Gulf war and for a solution to the Palestinian problem in accordance with the UN resolutions. The leaflet warns of the dire consequences that could result from the Gulf war and complains about the international community's double standards toward the Arabs.

The leaflet also calls upon the United Nations to assume patronage of the residents of the territories to prevent Israel from exploiting the situation and harming the Palestinians.

Another leaflet, distributed by the Palestinian Communist Party, calls for an escalation in the intifadah and expresses support for Iraq.

Al-Husayni Holds News Conference; Curfew Lifted

TA2701173691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1640 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni held a news conference at his East Jerusalem residence this afternoon, because of the calls for his deportation from Israel and his fear of actual deportation.

About 15 KAKH activists demonstrated opposite al-Husayni's house shortly before the news conference but were dispersed by the Border Police. Faysal al-Husayni's remarks to the general media, and to international journalists in particular, were brief. He said: I am opposed to war, and I am in favor of a political solution. He added: I am opposed to the bombing of any city; I do not want to see Baghdad, or Tel Aviv, bombed.

[Begin al-Husayni recording, in English] I am against bombing any city, whoever it is, whatever it is. I don't like to see Baghdad bombed. I don't like to see Tel Aviv bombed. [end recording]

Correspondents pointed out that al-Husayni was quoted as saying other things. He responded: My remarks were misrepresented in the media. Al-Husayni also wished to refer the international journalists to the difficult situation in the territories, which have been subject to a curfew since before the Gulf war started.

Today the curfew was lifted from several places in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to enable residents to stock up on food. No disturbances or incidents were reported, but the body of an Arab resident was discovered in Janin this morning. According to residents, he was murdered for collaborating with the Israeli authorities. It is possible that the man, Mustafa Naffa' Mar'i, 33, was murdered in reaction to the numerous detentions the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has made in Janin over the last few days.

French Socialist Leader Proposes PLO Change

TA2901183091 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The ruling French Socialist Party will raise, at the upcoming Socialist International conference, a proposal that the PLO no longer be regarded as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that this was stated by Pierre Mauroy, the secretary of that party, in a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi this evening. The Socialist International meets on Friday in Vienna.

Mauroy pointed out that such a resolution could create a new situation, which will encourage the Palestinians in the territories to elect their representatives for negotiations with Israel on a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Foreign Minister David Levi said that he is convinced that today the world better understands that the PLO is a destructive element that cannot contribute anything to the peace process.

[In a report by political correspondent Arye Golan at 1705 GMT, Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Networks in Hebrew adds that "Levi made it clear to his guest that Israel will never be able to regard the PLO as a representative of the Palestinians." Golan reports that Mauroy concluded by expressing the desire for "an ongoing and regular dialogue for the purpose of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Foreign Minister Levi said: I expect France and the European countries to play an important role in bringing the Arab countries to the negotiating table for direct talks without preconditions, negotiations in the framework of which a solution to the Palestinian problem will also be discussed." Golan reports that Mauroy "later met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir," a meeting about which he has no details, and that Mauroy is currently holding a news conference.]

Italian Minister Views Israeli Restraint

TA2901154791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Gianni de Michelis welcomes Israel's restraint in the war, but pointed out that Israel must think about the future. The Italian minister told our Rome correspondent Yosi Bar that he does not believe in a regional peace conference, but in a conference along the lines of the Helsinki deliberations. That conference will be the forum that will set principles for negotiations in the region. De Michelis strongly condemned 'Arafat's position and Iraq for harming the Palestinian cause.

Small Student Groups, Home Study Begin 30 Jan

TA2801183191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Studies in small groups will resume in schools and at homes throughout the country in two days. The teachers will report to the schools tomorrow morning to prepare for the new framework.

Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that according to Education Ministry instructions, every teacher will call each of his students and invite him or her to school at a date they will agree upon. Students up to the fourth grade will be accompanied by their parents. All the students will carry their protective kits. The teacher-student meeting will be held in a sealed room, and no more than 40 students will be present on the school premises at any given moment.

The teacher will hand out to the students worksheets and give instructions for home study programs that include educational television and radio broadcasts. The students will be able to contact their teachers at home or call the schools. Studies in the students' homes will be held by groups of five or six.

By week's end the Education Ministry will decide whether studies in special education institutions and junior highs will resume.

King Presides Over Council of Ministers Meeting

NC2901214091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening visited the Prime Ministry where he met briefly with Prime Minister Mudar Badran at his office. His majesty then presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers at which he reviewed the developments in the ongoing fighting in the Gulf region as well as the air bombardment to which brotherly Iraq is being subjected and the resulting destruction of its installations.

His Majesty King Husayn emphasized that the Arab nation is experiencing the most dangerous stage in its life, in which it is being subjected to partition, polarization, and the wasting of its energies at a time when world developments require greater solidarity and efforts to attain the distinguished position the Arab nation deserves to occupy.

His majesty recalled the efforts Jordan has exerted since the first moment of the Gulf crisis. Jordan did all it could and exerted sincere efforts to contain the crisis and find a political solution, the king noted. He added that Jordan is continuing to exert efforts today in line with its pan-Arab duty to stop the fighting and establish a course for peace through which all the issues from which the Middle East region is suffering can be addressed.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed his confidence in the Arab nation's ability to transcend its current crisis through its steadfastness and sacrifices, God willing.

His Majesty King Husayn was also reassured that the kingdom's situation in general is proceeding satisfactorily. He gave royal directives on a number of issues that serve the interests of the brother citizens.

King Husayn Visits, Briefed by Army Divisions

NC2901200291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited the 3d Royal Armored Division at noon today. He was received by the commander and senior officers of the division and briefed on its tasks and duties by the commander.

His majesty the supreme commander continued his field tour with a visit to the 5th Royal Armored Division, where he was received by the division's commander and senior officers and briefed on its duties by the commander. His majesty the supreme commander expressed appreciation to all personnel of the formations and units he visited for their high morale and their continued efforts in defense of Jordanian soil.

Protest Sent to UN On Israeli Bridge Closure

JN3001080491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Israel is imposing restrictions on Palestinians crossing from Jordan to the occupied Arab territories and the government is lodging a protest with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help restore normal traffic at the bridges across the River Jordan.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs told the Jordan Times that normally 500 to 600 persons were allowed to cross the bridges a day during the winter season but only 50 were now allowed to cross by the Israeli authorities.

So far, the government has contacted the U.N. and the ICRC which replied that the Israelis were taking the measure in view of the blanket curfew imposed on the West Bank because of the Gulf war.

Qatanani argued that as long as the 50 or so people are allowed to cross, how can they make it home under the curfew regulations.

Qatanani said that the government is now formally addressing the concerned organisations, through diplomatic channels, to help the Palestinians, many of whom had fled Kuwait and Iraq, to go home.

He said that in the summer months about 2,000 people a day normally cross the King Husayn Bridge on their way to the West Bank, and 1,200 cross via the Prince Muhammad Bridge.

Saudis Allow Teachers, Doctors To Cross Border

JN3001104691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Jan 91 p 20

[By 'Isam Qadamani]

[Excerpts] The Saudi authorities allowed as of the day before yesterday male and female teachers, doctors, pharmacists, hospital technicians, and students, together with their families, to enter the country.

An informed source told AL-RA'Y that this decision came after the Foreign Ministry held extensive contacts with the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia through the Saudi Consulate in Jordan and the Jordanian Embassy in Saudi Arabia.

The source also said that people in the categories mentioned by the Saudi authorities began entering Saudi territories via the border posts of al-Mudawwarah and al-'Umari. [passage omitted]

It added that people in these categories who have Saudi entry and exit visas and who want to travel can leave without any difficulties and that those whose visas have expired can refer to the Saudi Consulate in Jordan for an extension. He also stressed that the Saudi Consulate has informed the Foreign Ministry of these instructions. [passage omitted]

More Evacuees Cross Border From Iraq 29 Jan

JN3001083491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jan 91 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—The reopening of the Iraqi-Jordanian border Sunday enabled hundreds of evacuees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait to arrive at the al-Ruwayshid border post.

According to the head of the Evacuees Affairs Committee, Salamah Hammad, a total of 15,337 people have crossed into Jordan from the start of the outbreak of hostilities on Jan. 17 until Tuesday.

Hammad was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the evacuees were being distributed to a number of camps in Jordan prior to their repatriation according to arrangements worked out by the committee in cooperation with the concerned governments and international organisations.

Hammad noted that the evacuees include Sudanese, Indians, Vietnamese, Yemenis, Egyptians, Thais, Bangalis and Pakistanis. He said that they were housed at al-Azraq, Andalus and al-Ruwayshid camps and at al-'Aqabah. A total of 854 evacuees of various nationalities arrived at al-Ruwayshid Tuesday and more are expected to come in the coming days, said Hammad. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) estimated the stream of people who would be converging on al-Ruwayshid in few days at between 5,000 and 10,000. Hundreds of these people had earlier gathered at Tirbil, on the Iraqi side of the border awaiting for the reopening of traffic. [passage omitted]

JANDA Urges Egypt, Syria To Withdraw Forces

JN2901112391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Jan 91 p 7

[Excerpts] Amman—The Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance [JANDA] has urged Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to reconsider his policy supporting the American aggression and to withdraw the Egyptian forces from the enemies' front, because 'Abd- al-Nasir's forces should stand by the Arab nation and not by its enemies and because the sons of Egypt will never attack Iraq. This came in a letter sent by JANDA to the Egyptian president. The letter says: Within the framework of the war raging in the Gulf, because of your political decision to participate in the war along with the enemies of the Arab nation, including Israel, as part of your alliance against Iraq, in light of the initial results achieved by powerful Iraq in the battle between right and wrong, and in the absence of and due to the destruction of the legitimate Arab force represented by the Arab League and its summit institution, we would like to place the following facts before you:

Your Excellency the President, as you know, Washington wants a world with only one pole, in which you will not have even a marginal place. America is waging its war to establish its large evil empire and dominate the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East by destroying Iraq, controlling the sources of oil, and solving the Middle East problems on the basis of the Baker-Shamir plan, which is a copy of the treasonous Camp David accords and which has been rejected even by the people of great Egypt.

You also know that the lightning war alleged by Washington no longer exists, that the raging war will be a prolonged one, and that the great Egyptian people will not agree to throw their sons and the wealth of the Nile into the desert of falsehood fabricated by the Kuwaitis and the Saudis. You also know that Washington opposed every peaceful initiative on the Gulf crisis and that it is Washington that has paralyzed all the realistic European and Arab initiatives to solve the crisis and is still working to deprive Europe of any role that contributes to constructive solutions to the Gulf and Middle East issues.

You also know that Israel has a visible role for the coming phase of the war—a role represented by its declared intention of directly participating in the ground attack on Iraq—and that any support for or silence on this issue will amount to a declaration of war against us in Jordan.

You also know that none of this will work and that there are lessons to be learned from the experience of the great Egyptian people and their brave army, especially when this army makes decisions in the interest of the people and the Arab nation and when it is not tied by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionism-backed Camp David accords.

O Mr. President, we ask you in the name of the masses of our Arab nation and the sons of our people in Jordan to reconsider your policy supporting the American aggression and withdraw the Egyptian forces from the enemies' front, because great 'Abd-al-Nasir's forces should stand by the Arab nation and not by its enemies and because the sons of Egypt will never attack Iraq.

JANDA has also addressed a letter to the leaders of the states participating in the international alliance against Iraq. It says: We are neither begging nor appealing to you. We prefer to die standing. But we are discussing with you this ugly third world war that you are waging against Iraq and the peoples of our Arab nation. We say to you that you will lose and will be driven back to where you came from when your people settle scores with you on the basis of profit and loss. [passage omitted]

JANDA also sent a similar letter to the Syrian president.

Foreign Minister's Visit to Tehran Examined

JN2901151191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Iran Through the Jordanian Mirror"]

[Text] The foreign minister's visit to Tehran yesterday is a good beginning for bilateral relations, which we hope will be firm, promotable in all fields of cooperation, and founded on a strong basis of interests, hopes, and aspirations that unite the two Muslim peoples in Iran and Jordan.

This visit is of special importance because it takes place at an extremely serious time and under circumstances that are very difficult for the Islamic peoples, particularly for Jordanians and Iranians, who have similar stands toward the raging war, and who view the possible developments of this unjust war against a fraternal Arab and Islamic country with extreme seriousness.

Jordan's view of the Iranian position on the current situation in the Gulf is undoubtedly based on deep appreciation and respect, especially since Iran has rejected all the evil attempts to drag it into the Atlantic alliance, and in fact, has continued to warn against the flagrant foreign interference in the affairs of the Gulf and its people.

If this Iranian position indicates anything, it is that Iran has a leading role to play in the region, and that it occupies a prominent position in the Islamic world at a time when many have lost control and when several capitals lost their senses when the coalition tempted them with gold and silver.

Perhaps the Iranian position, based on an urgent call for a cease-fire, makes us wager on further important development in Tehran's position, which is taken into consideration by the Western Crusaders and whose decisive word is expected by millions of Muslims regarding the course that is based on dealing separately with every Islamic state and of isolating Muslims from one another.

While we are expecting that this first official visit by a Jordanian foreign minister to the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran will achieve all the great hopes that are pinned on it, we are confident that the joint challenges to both the Jordanians and Iranians as well as to all Arabs and Muslims will open wide and large horizons for the establishment of firm relations of cooperation between the two countries and for setting an example of bilateral relations to be emulated by the Arabs and Muslims.

Chevenement Departure 'Blow' to Alliance

JN3001074891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Jan 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "A Clean French Politician"]

[Text] French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement's resignation is the first blow of its kind, not only to the Crusader-Zionist alliance states, but also to French President Francois Mitterrand's policy, especially since it took place amid the unjust, aggressive war being launched by the West against Arabism and Islam.

If this resignation indicates anything, it indicates the grave crisis into which the Crusader alliance has slipped only two weeks after launching that unjust war against Iraq. The resigning French defense minister had repeatedly warned of the grave consequences of the war option and also cautioned of the very serious implications of such a destructive option.

Therefore, Chevenement's courageous step reveals, among other things, the hollowness of Mitterrand's prevaricating policy as well as that policy's lack of all the positive French positions and policies toward the Middle East.

This resignation indicates the Mitterrand policy's lack of French national unanimity, let alone unanimity inside the ruling Socialist Party in Paris. It also denotes an end to the era of independent French foreign policy and a serious dramatic shift in the position of the state, which has taken pride, since the great De Gaulle era, in a special and distinguished vision of its relations with the Arab nation.

Hence, we view this resignation as more than a French politician clearing his conscience, and see it as a clear sign of the extent of France's departure under Mitterrand from the image that is stamped in the minds of the Third World nations. We also see the humiliating French subservience to the policies of the United States, leader of the new international order.

As we shake the hand of the resigning French minister and hail his extreme moral courage, we regret to see the France of justice, freedom, and equality; the France of light and democracy; and the France of De Gaulle and independent policies moving quickly to place itself under the American banner, step up its hostility toward the Arab nation, and take a position conflicting with the status of a country of such cultural weight.

PLO To Shell Israel If Air Raids Continue

NC2801185291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Zayd Wahbah, the PLO chairman's representative in Lebanon, has threatened that the PLO will shell deep inside Israel if the international alliance continues its raids on Iraqi civilians and installations. Wahbah said: Do not forget that we are struggling alongside Iraq, and that southern Lebanon is an open front to contribute to the defense of Iraq.

Wabbah Views Said 'Personal'

NC2901180891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] In Tunis this evening, the PLO denied reports that 'Arafat had called for opening a second front against Israel from southern Lebanon. A PLO spokesman said Zayd Wahbah's remarks were an expression of his personal views, and that 'Arafat had not ordered hostilities to be mounted from southern Lebanon against Israel.

Katyusha Rockets Target Israeli Security Zone

Termed 'Heaviest' Barrage

NC2901104691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Scores of Katyusha rockets were fired at the border strip at dawn today. [passage omitted]

This morning, an explosive charge went off when an Israeli mechanized patrol was travelling on the Marwahin road. As a result of this explosion, a patrol vehicle was destroyed and its occupants were either killed or wounded, acccording to a statement issued by the fundamentalists.

In the wake of the explosion, Israeli troops conducted a thorough search and arrested a number of suspects.

[According to a report at 0800 GMT by Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Networks in Hebrew: "Dozens of Katyusha rockets were fired early this morning at the security zone in southern Lebanon. They exploded north of the Lebanese-Israeli border fence. No one was injured.

["Senior Northern Command officers told our correspondent Menahem Horowitz that this was the heaviest Katyusha barrage in the security zone in recent years."]

PLO Claims Responsibility

NC2901130891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] In Israel, military sources said that scores of Katyusha rockets were fired at dawn today at the security belt area created and occupied by Israel in southern Lebanon without creating any victims or damage.

In Sidon in southern Lebanon, a PLO spokesman affirmed that Palestinian fighters shelled four settlements in northern Israel at dawn today. He indicated that 80 Grad projectiles were fired at the settlements of Metulla, Misgav 'Am, Kefar Gil'adi, and Nahariyya.

It is to be recalled that Zayd Wahbah, the PLO chairman's representative in Lebanon, threatened yesterday to shell Israel if the coalition forces continued their raids on Iraq.

Israeli Ships Shell Refugee Camp

NC2901190091 Paris AFP in English 1852 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Jan 29 (AFP)—Israeli warships opened fire on a Palestinian refugee camp near here late Tuesday, with shells falling on the al-Rashidiyah compound at the rate of one a minute, correspondents reported.

Ambulances were trying to evacuate victims from the shelling to hospitals here, they said.

Attack Leaves 2 Dead, 6 Wounded

NC3001073691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Security sources say that Israeli gunboats shelled a Palestinian camp in south Lebanon in retaliation for the heaviest rocket attack on the security zone in years. The same sources said that at least two people were killed and six others wounded in al-Rashidiyah camp.

Small Bomb Explodes Near Kuwait Beirut Embassy

NC3001074591 Paris AFP in English 0722 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, Jan 30 (AFP)—A small bomb exploded overnight Tuesday near the Kuwaiti embassy in Syrian-controlled west Beirut without causing any casualties, police said Wednesday.

There have been no diplomats at the embassy since 1984 but on Friday Kuwaiti Ambassador 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jasim presented his credentials to President Ilyas al-Hirawi and said he would be residing in neighbouring Syria.

The attack is the 11th against representatives or interests of a member of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq since the start of the Gulf war on January 17.

Five attacks targeted French interests, including the embassy, and bombs also exploded outside the Egyptian Embassy and Saudi and British banks. Rocket propelled grenades were fired at the Italian Embassy and at a campus of the American University of Beirut.

A Lebanese man was killed in a bomb explosion outside a French-owned bank.

Amal, Hizballah Officials Meet at Iran Embassy

NC2901094791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] At a meeting held at the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy in Beirut yesterday, attended by representatives of the quadripartite committee made up of Iran, Syria, the revolutionary Hizballah, and Amal, along with the representative of the Lebanese Armed Forces, it was decided that the committee would assign personnel to coordinate and facilitate the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces, and that all necessary resources would be mustered for this purpose.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the Iranian charge d'affaires in Lebanon and the commander for intelligence and operations of the Lebanese Armed Forces, the revolutionary Hizballah and Amal movements agreed to do their best to attain this end and to implement the last phase of the Damascus accord. By doing so, they will be opening a new page on cooperation and coordination among themselves.

Defense Minister Views Gulf Conflict

PM2901163291 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 26 Jan 91 p 5

[Interview with General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister, by 'Adil Rida in Damascus; date not given: "Syrian Defense Minister tells AKHBAR AL-YAWM: Gulf War Will Not Be Another Vietnam"]

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister, has emphasized that the Gulf war might last several weeks or a few months, but will not be another Vietnam.

He said that the priority of Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi coordination is to prevent the fragmentation of Iraq after the war ends, and that the leaders Mubarak, al-Asad, and Fahd stress that Iraq's map must not be touched.

The Syrian defense minister said that the leader, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, was the first to warn Syria about Saddam Husayn. He also said that following the assassination of Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], Yasir 'Arafat pretended that he wanted to attend their funeral in order to escape from Baghdad before the allied forces' offensive.

At his home in al-Rawdah Street in the center of Damascus, during a period of over three hours he stopped only to read some of the reports arriving from Army reconnaissance. Then this interview was conducted with General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister, defense minister, and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

I expected the meeting to last no more than half an hour, in view of his busy schedule these days, but he reminded me of my discussions with him which used to last for a long time. That is why he chose to have the interview conducted at his home and during his few hours of rest. Then the interview started immediately:

[Rida] From your knowledge of him, how do you view Saddam Husayn's motives for occupying Kuwait and challenging and being hostile to the entire world in such a manner?

[Talas] (after a moment's pause) For God's sake and for history's sake, I want to explain an important fact, namely, that late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was the first to warn us about the reality of Saddam Husayn's agentry for the United States. I recall that when I went to Egypt to console the Egyptian people over the martyrdom of 'Abd-al-Mun'im Riyad—I was the Syrian Army's chief of staff at the time—I met with President 'Abd-al-Nasir at his home at Manshiyat al-Bakri. After I had offered my condolences President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir asked me to stay. He said: I will meet with the Jordanian chief of staff for five minutes, and then I will come to listen to what you have to say about the situation in Syria. The meeting with 'Abd-al-Nasir lasted five and a half hours. At the end he told me: Tell brother Hafiz al-Asad (he was defense minister at the time) to beware of Saddam Husayn. Saddam Husayn had assumed power nearly eight months earlier in the 17 July Movement. I told President 'Abd-al-Nasir: Saddam Husayn is a party comrade and he was with us in Syria. 'Abd-al-Nasir immediately said: And he was with us in Egypt as well, and my information about him is better than your information about him. We watched him in Cairo when he was a student at the Law Faculty after he attracted suspicion. I want you to warn brother Hafiz al-Asad that that party combatant is infiltrated by U.S. intelligence. And of course I conveyed that to President al-Asad. So Saddam's dealings with the West go back to 1962. But Saddam's mistake is that he did not know the limits allowed.

[Rida] How long do you expect the war to last?

[Talas] A few weeks, and maybe a few months, but it will certainly not last as long as the Vietnam war. That was a different matter. I visited Vietnam during the fighting. They had friends who supplied them with weapons, such as Russia, Korea, China, and all the socialist states. In fact, the Soviets operated the defense systems.

As for Saddam Husayn, he is hostile to the entire world. Even his greatest friend, King Husayn—and I am revealing this to AKHBAR AL-YAWM for the first time—did not agree to lease him an airport to station a squadron of Iraqi aircraft. All his neighbors show enmity toward him, so how can he win? He entered a losing battle at the outset. He lost it when not a single Kuwaiti agreed to cooperate with him. He lost it when the entire world rejected the situation which he tried to impose. How can a Kuwaiti live under the regime of Saddam Husayn, who himself kills whoever opposes him—such as the Iraqi health minister, merely for refusing to bring into Iraq poisons among imported medicines. Saddam Husayn killed him in his office. And you in Egypt know how he returns young Egyptians, who worked in the factories and farms during his war with Iran, in boxes.

Murder is his hobby. He destroyed the aircraft of his defense minister, 'Adnan Khayrallah, with five charges of dynamite merely because people had started citing his role in the Iranian battles. This is in the knowledge that the victory in Iran was won by the U.S. weapons which Saddam continued to claim to the Arabs were to protect the eastern gate. After eight years of war he returned to the agreement with Iran—the agreement that he tore up in front of the television cameras in 1975.

By occupying Kuwait Saddam Husayn tried to conceal his failure in Iran, since in Iran they demanded that he relinquish whatever he had occupied, because the United States would not allow him to do as he pleased with the regional balances. He thought that, having done what was demanded of him and after his retreat from Iran, they would would agree to the annexation of Kuwait as a reward for him, but he miscalculated.

[Rida] How will the war against him end, and what could follow the Iraqi Army's defeat?

[Talas] I am very sorry to say that Saddam Husayn has placed the Iraqi Army in a furnace from which no one except Israel will benefit. He wanted to complicate the issue to eliminate the scores of accusations leveled at him, so he launched a few missiles against Israel. Saddam Husayn, who says he wants to liberate Palestine, made contacts with Israel, which our organs have recorded. During them he tried to sound out [former Israeli Defense Minister] Rabin with regard to the possibility of supporting [former Lebanese Army Commander] 'Awn. He asked Rabin to send weapons to General 'Awn. When Rabin was asked whether he was concerned about the weapons supplied to 'Awn by Saddam, he said: Not at all. This is because Saddam is supplying 'Awn with weapons to kill the Syrians, and there is no threat to Israel. Saddam is trying to convince us that he wants to liberate Palestine. In fact Saddam has opposed, and continues to oppose, any serious effort to mend the Arab rift.

Suffice it to say that when the idea of convening an Arab summit conference emerged after the Arab League's transfer to Egypt he, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat opposed the idea of convening it in Egypt. They wanted it to be convened in Baghdad so that Syria—one of the principal states of the region —would not attend it and so that the vicious circle would continue. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said one day: The liberation of Palestine can be achieved via Zimbawe!

Incidentally, I will reveal a new secret for the first time: The assassination of Abu-Iyad and Abu-al-Hawl in Tunis was carried out by a double agent who worked for Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli Mosad. 'Arafat's objective was to escape from Baghdad before the 15 January deadline set by the Security Council for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. He wanted to use this as an excuse to leave Baghdad for Amman on the pretext of burying the three leaders [the third was Fakhri al-'Umari]. From Amman he headed for Tunis and remained there. In order to cover his escape from Baghdad he launched his proposal that the PLO headquarters be transferred from Tunis to Baghdad, exactly as in the case of artist Naji al-'Ali, who was also killed by a double agent working for the PLO and the Mosad. 'Arafat chose the timing carefully for fear that war might break out, in which case he might not be able to escape and thus might be arrested.

You ask how the war will end and how to liberate Kuwait. I tell you: The Americans' method of fighting is that that they are using their air strength on a large scale, instead of artillery, for the softening-up process. I think that the softening-up process by air will take some time to cut off all supplies to the Iraqi forces in Kuwait. Then they will start the offensive.

[Rida] How do you think the battles are progressing?

[Talas] The battles are being conducted according to the U.S. strategy, which is different from the Eastern strategy. The latter bears more losses but achieves victory faster. The Americans can continue the air bombardment for a month before they start a land battle. And every method has its own advantage.

Of course, I hope that some honorable person in Iraq will get rid of Saddam Husayn so that someone else will come and immediately decide to withdraw from Kuwait and not to destroy the Iraqi Army. There are those who expect Saddam Husayn to shoot himself, as Hitler did after he realized that he had lost. Tyrants always end that way!

Certainly the victory will belong to the international alliance, and this pains us, because Iraq's Army is an Arab army. What can you do with Saddam Husayn, who for 20 years has fragmented the Arab nation: once with the Kurds, once with Iran, once with Syria, once with the Gulf, once with Kuwait, and recently with the entire world. Saddam's real tragedy is that he miscalculates.

[Rida] The signs are that a new map of the region is being drawn up. Where is the safety valve and what could Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi coordination achieve?

[Talas] I will begin by answering the second part of the question. The tripartite coordination is the biggest guarantee against partition of the Arab nation by the West. Let me say on this occasion that leaders Mubarak, al-Asad, and Fahd are agreed that Iraq's map should not be compromised because every grain of Iraqi soil is as important to us as it is to the people of Iraq. There are decisions, agreed upon by the three leaders, not to allow any power to harm Iraq's territorial integrity or change its map. Therefore, after the war Iraq will remain the full Iraq with all its territory, and Kuwait will be liberated and legitimacy restored.

As regards the first part of the question, I say that the world is now moving toward peace, with the end of the Cold War and the beginning of international accord. Of course, many things have not crystallized yet.

In the past there were two powers controlling the fate of the world. Now all powers are turning to peace based on justice. We hope that once the liberation of Kuwait is completed, an international conference would be held to restore the rights of the Palestinian brothers to their own state. That was confirmed to President al-Asad by Bush.

[Rida] Frankly, is the aim of the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel to force Syria to join the confrontation?

[Talas] Actually, the first to draw our attention to this matter was the Soviet chief of staff, who told me on 5 August—that is, three days after Iraq's occupation of Kuwait—that the Soviet leadership had studied all the possibilities and wanted to draw our attention to the the fact that the world's rejection of what Saddam did would force him to reshuffle the cards and try to turn on Israel by launching ballistic missiles for that purpose: So beware of that.

We in Syria were already aware of that aim. Saddam's objective in launching these missiles is propaganda and to convince the simple Palestinians of what he is doing. Israel's failure to retaliate is a result of U.S. advice to frustrate Saddam, noting that there was already enough force to liberate the Gulf.

At any rate, Israel has benefited from Saddam's ballistic missiles, inasmuch as it received the Patriot missiles and new batteries to counter Saddam's ballistic missiles. We are against all Saddam's demagogic methods, and Syria will not be dragged into a battle the time and place of which it has not chosen.

[Rida] What if Israel enters the war?

[Talas] It is not in Israel's interest to join the war at this stage, because Israel has its own calculations. It is not like Saddam Husayn.

[Rida] Frankly, do you expect Iraqi treachery or provocation, particularly as you have foiled his plan to drag Syria to the fight?

[Talas] In my view, it is not in Iraq's interest to provoke Syria, and Saddam knows what the result would be if he decided to act against us. Our retaliation would be tenfold.

[Rida] As a military man, do you really believe that the Iraqi Army is the fourth strongest army in the world, as some Western trumpets claim?

[Talas] There can be no doubt that the West contributed to the development of Iraq's military capabilities. When the Iraq-Iran war and the role required of Saddam in Iran ended. [sentence as published] You in Egypt know that it is not the fourth power in the world. It is not even the 20th army. That is a big lie. Egypt, if it wanted, could have an army of 5 million, but what matters is the number of tanks, aircraft, and missiles. Western propaganda has created a myth which Saddam himself believes.

[Rida] What are the expected losses in this war?

[Talas] Actually, nobody can predict the losses, but the allied forces' air bombardment has noticeably avoided cities and is concentrating on military targets. That will minimize losses on both sides. Of course, Iraqi losses will be greater because the allied states have technological superiority and a stronger war machine. Saddam Husayn could not defeat Iran, so how is he going to defeat 28 states headed by the United States? This is a very simple matter of arithmetic which he should have considered, but he thinks like an Australian mule. He thought that by putting a marshal's insignia on his shoulder he would be able to defeat the United States in battle. He ignores the facts on the ground.

[Rida] Syria is known to have special relations with Iran. In the light of your contacts with the Iranian leadership, could Iran join the war on Iraq's side?

[Talas] Certainly not, because the Iranians know Saddam well and it is not in their interest to deal with him. They are taking a neutral stand. They know that he is the farthest person from Islam, that he is renowned for his treachery, and that he hates the Iranian revolution. His retreat in that respect is only a tactical one, and once he recovers he will turn against Iran.

That is what President al-Asad told the Iranian leadership. He said that Saddam never tires of the sight of blood and battles. The Turkish president has described him as the worst neighbor. We know him well. We signed an agreement with him in 1979. Forty days later he killed everyone who warmly shook hands with President al-Asad. His intelligence service took note of everyone who warmly shook hands with President al-Asad and he killed them, and then claimed that there was a Syrian plot against Iraq. He did that to get out of the agreement that he signed with us. Iran knows that he sacrificed a million martyrs in an unjustifiable battle. Furthermore, it would not be in Iran's interest if he became stronger in the Gulf and if he controlled the Gulf. That is why they said that they would remain neutral.

[Rida] What do you think of those who have supported him, such as King Husayn, Lieutenant General al-Bashir, Yasir 'Arafat, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih?

[Talas] I will only talk about one of them—Yasir 'Arafat, who does not know his people's interests and who says nothing but lies. The biggest communty in Kuwait is the Palestininian community (300,000). Kuwait embraced them and gave them every aid. Yasir 'Arafat himself used to work in Kuwait. The first sums received by the PLO came from Kuwait, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been paying him continuously for 25 years. What justification is there for biting the hand that fed him? Perhaps it is that others convinced him that Kuwait could be an alternative homeland for the Palestinians. What Yasir 'Arafat has done does not command the respect of the Palestinian fighters. He personally owns $12 billion, in his own name. That sum is enough to sustain the stone-throwing children for 12 years, but he withholds this money from them and keeps on begging in their name. He stole 1.7 billion pounds from the al-Rafidayn Bank, which is a joint British-Iraqi bank in Beirut, and he plundered other Beirut banks and deposited the money in his own name—not in the name of the PLO.

As regards King Husayn and others, we want them to return to their senses. It seems that King Husayn is beginning to return to the just path, because he said in his latest press conference that Saddam Husayn was not answering him. Returning to the path of right is better than continuing on the path of wrong.

[Rida] Could we know what took place at the meeting between President al-Asad and U.S. President Bush, and why did President Bush not visit Damascus as he did other states?

[Talas] The most important thing at that meeting was that President Bush confirmed that an international conference to settle the Middle East question would be held. As to why he did not go to Damascus or why President al-Asad did not go to Washington, relations between us and the United States are not completely cordial and they had Syria on the list of terrorist states but did not have Saddam Husayn on the list. He was taken off the list in 1983, even though he killed thousands of victims from among his own people and neighboring peoples. That is why Geneva was chosen as a neutral country [for the Bush-al-Asad meeting].

[Rida] Is Saddam holding anything back for the last desperate moments?

[Talas] Saddam's danger has been exaggerated in order to justify hitting him.

'First Group' of Refugees Arrive From Iraq

NC2901223591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] (Michael Shrunberger), UN coordinator on refugee relief in Syria, today announced that the first batch of refugees from Iraq crossed into northeast Syria yesterday evening. In a statement carried by AFP, Mr. (Shrunberger) said the refugees were being held at al-Hawl camp set up for this purpose in northern Syria. He noted that this is the first group of refugees to arrive in Syria from Iraq since the Gulf war began.

Al-Shar', Qaddur Return From Saudi Arabia

NC3001080491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 T 30 Jan

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ministers al-Shar' and Qaddur returned to Damascus last night. They were seen off at Riyadh Airport by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, senior Saudi Foreign Ministry officials, Syrian Ambassador in Riyadh 'Umar al-Sayyid, and the embassy staff.

Iraqi Army, People Urged To Move Against Saddam

NC2901091991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The Destructive Results of the Baghdad Ruler's War," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The most important results of the Gulf war can be grouped into two categories. On the one hand, grave losses have been sustained by the people, resources, and potential of Iraq. Moreover, the entire infrastructure of that bleeding homeland is about to collapse as a result of its ruler's adherence to his erroneous political course. In addition, Kuwait and other Arab states are sustaining losses, whether because of the war operations per se or because of the effects of these operations. The gravest effect now is the oil slick that Iraq deliberately pumped [into the Gulf] and which threatens an unprecedented ecological disaster. On the other hand, this war has provided our Zionist enemy with huge propaganda and military gains. Such gains were not easy to obtain before this war. As a result, the so-called free world nations opened wide the doors of their treasuries and military arsenals for this entity to pick up what it never dreamed of even during the most prosperous periods of cooperation between Israel and those nations.

Al-BA'TH continues: In addition, that war has revived the expansionist intentions and ambitions of some parties which seek expansion at the expense of the Arab land.

AL-BA'TH adds: These were some of the general and initial results of the war sought by the Iraqi regime which will exacerbate daily.

AL-BA'TH concludes: In all this, the situation requires a swift and immediate move by the people and Army of Iraq to halt destruction before the chance for salvation is completely lost. [passage omitted]

Under the headline "The People's Willpower Cannot Be Defeated," AL-THAWRAH says: For 13 days, Saddam Husayn and his regime have been pushing the Iraqi Army and all sectors of the people into the furnace of a new destructive war following his crazy war with the Iranian revolution. This is the result of his rejection of Arab and international resolutions and failure to succumb to the appeals to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Therefore, a crisis that was once an inter-Arab crisis has been turned into an international one called the Gulf crisis.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Nevertheless, Saddam persists in his arrogance and intransigence, despite the massive destruction which is constantly expanding, thus exposing the Iraqi Army, people, and potential to a grave catastrophe.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Hence, we say the Iraqi regime does not represent the Iraqis' wishes or aspirations. Since he came to power, the ruler of Baghdad has done nothing in the interest of the people of Iraq and their higher national and pan-Arab interests. Therefore, this regime cannot last. The will of the Iraqis must prevail because the will of the people can never be defeated.

Commentary Decries Israel's 'Extortion' of West

NC2901161191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Among the many results that are beginning to crystallize today amid the clouds of smoke from the Gulf war are those that concern Israel in particular and the future of the Arab-Zionist conflict in the region in general. Israel has used the Iraqi ruler's rash crime of occupying Kuwait as an opportunity to practice blatant extortion against some Western countries, taking advantage of the propaganda smoke unleashed by the firing of some Iraqi missiles at the occupied territories. These missiles were launched as part of a misleading maneuver with a clear-cut intent and objective that ultimately falls within the context of an attempt by Iraq's rulers to expand the scope of the war and reshuffle the cards to conceal the real problem, which has been since the beginning of August and remains the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

As is always the case, the object of this Zionist blackmail is the acquisition of more advanced weapons, more money, and more world sympathy, which had plummeted to a new low before the Gulf crisis. What the world must understand is that the Israeli aggression against the Arabs and the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the other occupied territories has not changed and will not change; it is aggression that threatens peace in the region and that runs contrary to the law of justice in our world. Any upsetting of the balance of power between the Arabs and Israel while the world is preoccupied with the Gulf war will create an obstacle to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region. The new flow of assistance into Israel under the pretext of safeguarding its security and ensuring its self-defense, as the Zionist media claim today, will encourage Israel to continue its aggression, defy the international will, cling to the occupation, and refuse to comply with the UN resolutions.

The Gulf war which broke out on 17 January to implement the UN resolutions and liberate occupied Kuwait must not turn into a cloak under which another occupation grows and another aggression expands, an aggression that for approximately half a century has been the main issue threatening peace and stability in the Middle East.

Therefore what is required now, as has always been required, is to pressure Israel into implementing the UN resolutions and not to provide it with more money and weapons, polish its image before the world, and return to the earlier and false tune of portraying it as a victim in the region at a time when it was launching wars against the Arabs, occupying their territories, and turning its back on the successive international resolutions that were based on justice and that sought to achieve peace and security in the region.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Voices Support for Iraq

NC3001061991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] The controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria and member of the Political Bureau of the National Front for the Salvation of Syria has declared that he and the members of the front support Iraq in its confrontation with the forces of the American-Zionist-Atlantic invasion. In a statement, 'Adnan Sa'd al-Din, controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria, called on the sons of the Syrian Arab people—officers, soldiers, workers, students, and peasants—to assume their role to save the homeland and liberate it from treason and sectarianism in all its forms and names so that Syria can restore national unity, Arab unity, and Islamic jihad.

'Adnan Sa'd al-Din said: The decisive moment in our history approaches and the hour of salvation and liberation from foreign control and from the Zionist cancer has come so that the age of Arab sovereignty and Islamic awakening may begin.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Note to India's Shekhar on Gulf

LD2201190191 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Message by Afghan President Najibullah to Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar on recent developments in the Gulf—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Your Excellency, five days have passed since the flames of war started in the Gulf area. Yet already the expansion and development of this miserable war has caused human losses, financial damage, and devastation of terrifying dimensions. All humanity is strongly concerned about the consequences of this war to world peace. The war has endangered the economic, social, and even physical existence of a country and a member of the Nonaligned Movement and every moment extends the development of the disputes to neighboring countries and regions. The Afghan nation, which has suffered from the miseries of a 12-year-old destructive war, knows well the consequences of terrifying war and cannot remain indifferent to the results of this devastating war in the Gulf area to nations and countries in the world as a whole. A month before the end of the Security Council ultimatum I asked a number of Arab countries to increase their efforts to prevent a bloody war in the Gulf area. Only one day before the start of military operations against Iraq I asked the United States of America, as a great world power and a permanent member of the Security Council to use its influence to solve the crisis, and refrain from the use of power, whatever the purpose and goal. The problem of Kuwait was cited as the aim of military action. However, it has become evident recently that, in contravention of the Security Council resolution, the war is directed more at Iraq and its territorial integrity and even at the Muslim nation of Iraq. This has caused concern in most countries of the world; but the possibility of finding a political solution to end armed hostilities immediately and to prevent the expansion of the crisis has not disappeared yet.

Your Excellency Chandra Shekhar, prime minister of the Republic of India, new endeavors for cooperation and detente in international relations have provided suitable opportunities for final solutions to a considerable number of regional problems. There is no doubt that new circumstances could and still can help in the search for a just and fitting solution to all regional problems and disputes. While I appreciate the Republic of India's efforts to find a political and comprehensive solution to the problems related to the Gulf and the Middle East and the immediate cessation of war, the Afghan state proposes that all of us, without delay, should join all our efforts and strength to end the military campaign and to introduce a ceasefire in the Gulf. As soon as the ceasefire is introduced serious and broad diplomatic efforts must be stepped up to secure the consent of all the parties involved for an international peace conference on the Middle East. During the preparations to convene an international conference efforts must be made to find all opportunities for objective and realistic solutions to all aspects of the Middle East problem and the Gulf crisis and a peaceful resolution of the differences will be secured by the application of all internationally accepted mechanisms. The introduction of an immediate ceasefire on the one hand will prevent the occurrance of unpredictable human miseries and on the other hand will create an appropriate atmosphere for diplomatic efforts for the application of propitious political methods. In our opinion the opportunity for peace has not yet expired. Due to the weight and international credibility of the Nonaligned Movement, a founder and active member of Nonaligned Movement can be an effective means to end the war and find a political solution.

The Republic of India's and your own contacts with the president of the Nonaligned Movement, the UN secretary general, and the permanent members of the Security Council, especially in connection with and the encouragement of joint new efforts by France and the USSR will respond to the expectation of the Movement's members and the whole international community. In circumstances where more people are losing their lives with every passing moment in a country which is a member of the Nonaligned Movement and greater destruction is being caused, I ask you to take joint action to extinguish the fire of war immediately. In our opinion the formation of an active nucleus consisting of some Islamic and Arab countries, Yugoslavia and India—and its emergency session convening in New Delhi—could be the start of coordinate and harmonized efforts by the Nonaligned Movement to find a political and peaceful solution. I assure you that you will enjoy the moral support of the people and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in your efforts.

Wishing you good health and success in your humane efforts I renew my compliments.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, Kabul, 21 January 1991 corresponding 6 Rajab al-Murajab 1411

Sudan's Recognition of Opposition Criticized

LD2901174991 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The Government of Sudan, one of the four countries that recognized the so-called government of the Afghan opposition, has decided to establish diplomatic relations with it. Concerning this, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan said:

According to reports received recently, the regime of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir in Sudan has decided to establish diplomatic relations with the foundationless government of the Afghan opposition and allow it to open its embassy in Khartoum. It is surprising that a responsible government should take such a ridiculous and irresponsible action, although the Government of Sudan had been one the four governments which gave recognition, in a hurry, under Saudi Arabian pressure, to the so-called interim government of the Afghan opposition.

But after changes and the acession to power of the present regime in Sudan, the new government practically distanced itself from the Afghan opposition. After the establishment of the Hasan al-Bashir regime in Sudan, high-level contacts were established between Afghanistan and Sudan and meetings were conducted. For instance, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met with Hasan al-Bashir, head of the state of Sudan, during his recent visit to France. By the same token, the foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan met with the foreign minister of Sudan at the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa on 26 July 1989, and also in Belgrade in September of the same year. During all those meetings, the Sudanese side strongly condemned the stance of the Afghan opposition and approved the proposals and drives of the Republic of Afghanistan Government as a very realistic alternative to put an end to the war.

The two sides agreed to continue their contacts through both countries' permanent representation in the United Nations. The contacts still continue. The two sides, at that time, agreed on information about the contacts not being made public in accordance with certain conveniences and on the role Sudan could play in mediation between the Republic of Afghanistan Government and the Afghan opposition; and Sudan itself accepted it.

But now the Government of Sudan is rescinding its previous commitments, and by ignoring accepted interstate norms establishes diplomatic relations with a landless government of which nothing is left but the name.

In our opinion, this decision of the unstable Sudanese regime, which confronts a wave of internal extremism and Saudi Arabian pressure, cannot be but surrender to the demands of the most extremist sections of power in Sudan and of Saudi Arabia—which is unhapy with Sudan for its stance on the Gulf problem and has reduced its aid to Sudan.

The Republic of Afghanistan considers this decision of Sudan—which will lead to its further isolation—contrary to accepted norms of interstate relations and launches its strong protest in this respect to the Government of Sudan.

'Interim Government' Reportedly Scaling Down

LD2801182391 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 28, IRNA—Short of foreign aid, on which it so badly depended, the so-called "interim" government of the 7-party Afghan Pashto Alliance based in Peshawar, has decided it is time to wrap up its different departments with all their honorary titles except for those handling public services.

Unrecognized since its hasty forming at the expense of other major Mujahidin groups in February 1989, the alliance has even decided to move the office of its number two man permier 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf to a refugee camp in Peshawar.

Long plagued by bloody infighting, the sharp reduction in foreign aid seems to have delivered "coup de grace" to the "interims" who instead of popular support had tried to stay in the good books of the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, say close sources.

They also said that the dissolving of the various departments will make thousands of Afghans jobless although most of them had not been paid for the past few months.

The sources said the Pashto interims received only rupees 20 million ($1.5 million) in aid over the past six months, following the occupation of Kuwait and growing relations between Riyadh and Moscow.

Bangladesh

Allied Parties Demand Gulf Troop Withdrawal

BK2901160491 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The five-party alliance staged a demonstration in front of the Foreign Office in Dhaka today demanding immediate withdrawal of Bangladeshi troops from Saudi Arabia. A rally to mark the protest was presided over by the convenor of the alliance, Khaleuzzaman Bhuiyan, and addressed among others by alliance leaders Rashid Khan and Mahbubul Haque. They said the five-party combine will launch a vigorous campaign to bring back the troops.

Ex-Vice President, Minister Moved to Dhaka Jail

BK3001065091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Former Vice President Moudud Ahmed and Home Minister Retired Major General Mahmudul Hasan have been shifted to Dhaka Central Jail. Jail sources said that they were taken to jail last night from their (?respective) houses. [words indistinct] Both of them will be [words indistinct]. Another former minister in Ershad's government, Retired Colonel Zafar Imam, also surrendered to Dhaka Central Jail authorities last night.

Election Commission's 16-Point Code of Conduct

BK2601165091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The Election Commission has framed a 16-point code of conduct for the ensuing parliamentary elections. The framing of the code of conduct followed the discussion between the Election Commission and the political parties in Dhaka on Thursday last. The code of conduct which the Election Commission has desired to be followed by the political parties provides for abiding by the law by them and simultaneously helping the law enforcing agencies to maintain law and order in the society. It also desires the political parties to be respectful to the opinions and democratic rights of others. They will help people engaged in conducting the elections and refrain themselves from doing such things as may jeopardize congenial atmosphere for holding the elections. The political parties will form a coordination election committee to reduce any tension and settle dispute if and when such occasion arises due to misunderstanding between different political parties.

The code of conduct further says all political parties will have to be [words indistinct] and vigilant against violent activities and will have to help recover illegal arms. The code says political parties will not try to get votes by giving money and not allure voters in this regard and will not provide any transportation to the voters other than the members of the candidate's own family. Votes acquired by illegal means will not be counted and the Election Commission at such centers from where votes acquired by foul means will be canceled. [sentence as heard]

No candidate will make any donation or contribution in his constituency till the day of holding of elections. Political parties will not encourage rumor-mongering or hatching of conspiracy with the ulterior motive to frustrate the elections. They will not set up any camp around the polling centers or in the restricted areas and will not carry out any convassing inside the polling (?centers). Political parties have been urged to restrain their workers from entering the polling center. The Election Commission in a press release issued in Dhaka today hoped the political parties will follow the code of conduct sincerely and honestly and will help hold an acceptable election in the country.

India

Government Spearheads Mideast Peace Initiative

FL2401170191 Bridgetown CANA in English 1613 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 24, CANA—The Indian Government, through the non-aligned movement (NAM), is spearheading another peace initiative to end the Persian Gulf crisis, an Indian official here said.

"We are working on a plan and we feel we could have a breakthrough since we have a good relationship with the countries involved in the war," information officer at the Indian High Commission, S.C. Pant, told the Caribbean News Agency [CANA] on Thursday [24 January]. He continued, "India has the strongest foundation of [the] NAM and we feel that we could put forward the peace plan. We are making efforts on it." The initiative would involve a comprehensive plan for the substantial withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, invaded and annexed last year, and the cessation of hostilities, Pant reported.

Indian high commissioner Professor Chindamani Lashmanna told reporters that Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar wrote Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn, U.S. President George Bush, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, urging them to help to stop the war. The government of India feels that the consequences of war would be disastrous ecologically and economically, particularly for developing countries, he said.

According to the high commissioner, India has a vested interest in a peaceful settlement since it was linked to all the parties involved. Lakshmanna said India had always come to the support of nations which were victims of aggression. An international force, including U.S. troops, is fighting to get Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Shekhar Says Saddam Should Show 'Flexibility'

BK3001044091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister said that the Iraqi president, Mr. Saddam Husayn, should pave the way for ending the Gulf War by showing some flexibility in his approach to the deepening crisis. In an interview with an Urdu daily in New Delhi, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the Iraqi president did not ask or consult anybody before annexing Kuwait and he has now been isolated on this issue. The prime minister said if the war continues it will have serious political implications for India besides escalating tensions.

Gandhi Urges Government To Seek UN Gulf Meeting

BK2901160691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has urged the government to seek an immediate meeting of the UN Security Council to review the implementation of the resolution on securing the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. In a letter to the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, he said India should also evolve a workable plan of action individually or collectively with other countries to end hostilities in the Gulf and to bring about a durable solution to the issues involved.

Reaction to Refueling of U.S. Aircraft Noted

Iraqi Envoy Protests

BK2901164091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Iraq has lodged a protest with India over the grant of refueling facilities to U.S. military transport aircraft at the Bombay airport. The Iraqi ambassador in India, Mr. 'Abd al-Wadud al-Shaykhali, met a senior official of the external affairs ministry in New Delhi last evening to lodge the complaint. [passage omitted]

The Congress-I has alleged that the decision to allow refueling of the U.S. military aircraft in India was taken by the former V.P. Singh government in September last year. A party spokesman, Mr. M.J. Akbar, told newsmen today that the decision was taken at a time when the Gulf crisis had already erupted and the United States had made its intention clear to go to war on the issue. Mr. Akbar criticized the present government for not reviewing the decision. The Congress-I also urged the government to reveal full details of how India entered into an agreement with the United States in this regard.

The Janata Dal and the left parties have also criticized the grant of refueling facilities to the American military planes and demanded that the government should immediately stop giving such facilities. The Delhi units of the Janata Dal, the Congress-S, and the left parties have said the government should not deviate from the established foreign policy of the country.

The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has said that the people and the parliament should know the rationale for allowing refueling facilities to the American planes. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, Mr. Bommai said his party firmly disapproves the step. Referring to the Congress-I criticism of the government on the issue, Mr. Bommai said the Congress-I's approach is inconsistent, because being a supporting party it cannot divest itself from government policies and actions.

V.P. Singh Said Not Responsible

BK3001054891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] The former external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has strongly refuted the Congress-I Spokesman Mr. M.J. Akbar's allegation that the decision to allow refueling of U.S. military aircraft in India was taken by Mr. V.P. Singh's government. Expressing surprise at Mr. Akbar's statement, Mr. Gujral said the allegation is false and is being floated to extricate itself from the embarassing situation created by its proxy government.

Media Comment on Refueling

BK3001072691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0652 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By M.R. Narayan Swami]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 30 (AFP)—Indian newspapers Wednesday joined the opposition in condemning New Delhi's decision to let U.S. Air Force transport planes en route between the Philippines and the Gulf quietly refuel in Bombay.

Leading English-language dailies here accused the two-month-old minority government of Premier Chandra Shekhar of deviating from India's traditional policy of nonalignment and virtually joining the allied war against Iraq.

One, the leftist PATRIOT, said the action turned Delhi's efforts to seek a negotiated settlement to the war into "dishonest posturing."

Iraq, once a close ally of India, has already protested the refueling facilities which Bombay airport sources said had been granted since January 9 to U.S. Air Force C-141 Starlifter and C-130 Hercules planes.

Indian officials have said they had been assured by Washington that the aircraft were carrying only "non-lethal" equipment, but admit there had been no inspection of the planes to verify the claims.

On Tuesday, Iraq's Ambassador 'Abd al-Wadud ['Abd al-Karim al-Shaykhli] branded India's decision "unfortunate" and "unjustified", and expressed shock that the refueling should have been carried out by "a friendly country like india".

On Wednesday, Mr. al-Wadud told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he was not aware if the refueling had been halted, but newspapers reported that the operation, officially confirmed by the government Monday, was continuing.

A news report from Colombo, where Indian Foreign Minister Vidya Charan Shukla is currently on a visit, Wednesday quoted "an authoritative Indian source" as saying that India may reconsider its decision.

Mr. Shukla is to fly on to China, where his discussions will include the Gulf conflict, on Friday.

India has repeatedly asked Iraq to quit Kuwait but demanded a negotiated end to the war.

Harsh condemnation of Mr. Shekhar's government on Monday and Tuesday by centrist and leftist parties as well as its own ally, former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, was echoed Wednesday by indignant editorial writers.

"Both parliament and the public need to know if there is a substantial change of direction in India's foreign policy," asked the ECONOMIC TIMES, whose sister newspaper THE TIMES OF INDIA Monday exposed the secret refueling.

"The country is not legally or morally bound to provide refueling facilities to the U.S. planes flying from Manila to the Gulf merely because India had supported the UN resolution calling for Iraq's pullout from Kuwait," added the widely circulated HINDUSTAN TIMES.

With two notable exceptions, other newspapers echoed the criticism.

"India's policy of nonalignment is getting less "non" and more "aligned," said THE TRIBUNE, adding that allied claims "about ejecting Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait will be the pretext for ejecting Iraq itself from modern times."

THE HINDU added that the refueling would severely damage New Delhi's ties with Baghdad.

Iraq has in the past supplied cheap oil to India, which in turn has provided training to the Iraqi Army. Iraq is also the only Moslem country to have backed New Delhi in international fora over the Moslem separatist campaign in India's Kashmir state.

India is also a strong exponent of the Palestinian struggle for a homeland, and has no diplomatic ties with Israel.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, a respected newspaper, and pro-Congress NATIONAL HERALD called the Indian assistance shocking and reprehensible.

But the mass circulation INDIAN EXPRESS and the BUSINESS AND POLITICAL OBSERVER justified the refueling, saying it was a mere formality after New Delhi had backed a UN resolution to force Iraq to quit Kuwait.

"Having supported these resolutions, India has done no wrong in accepting a U.S. plea for refueling facilities for its air force planes on way to the Gulf," said THE EXPRESS, in an editorial entitled "Misconceived Criticism."

It added: "What the government has done amounts to no more than an indirect and non-combat association with the UN-sanctioned action against Iraq."

Other newspapers countered by quoting UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar as saying belatedly in published interviews that the Gulf conflict was not a UN war.

On Tuesday, the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) of former Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Mr. Shekhar's predecessor, said it "firmly disapproved" of New Delhi's secret deal with Washington.

Another Janata Dal leader, George Fernandes, said in a separate statement: "The least that the Government of India could do to salvage the country's reputation is to tender an apology to the Iraqi people and quit."

But the Congress (I) charged Tuesday that the decision to provide fuel to the U.S. aircraft was actually taken by the 11- month-old government of Mr. V.P. Singh, which was voted out on November 7.

The Janata Dal quickly dismissed the Congress criticism of the refueling as a hoax, and said the present government would not have taken the decision without consulting Mr. Gandhi's party since it was dependent on Congress for survival.

Saddam Said Primarily To Blame for Gulf War

BK2801153591 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 18 Jan 91 p 13

[Editorial: "Oh No, It's War"]

[Text] All wars are avoidable. But that is theory and not-so-secret a desire of those who want to see peace on this earth. Like other wars, the Gulf war could have been prevented but the world has unfortunately failed to prevent it despite the fact that a century of big conflicts was slowly coming to a close on a note of peace and cooperation and some friendships. Till the deadline laid down by the UN Security Council for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait became effective, many people were hoping that the war could still be averted and human lives saved. But the logic of realpolitik is harsher than is generally thought.

The world is bound primarily to blame Saddam Husayn for simply walking into Kuwait and declaring it Iraq's province. This the world rightly could not have accepted. That Kuwait had the right to exist as an independent nation cannot be disputed. The only question, however, was how it should be freed from Saddam Husayn's clutches—by sanctions and negotiations or by war. Saddam Husayn's attempt to justify his grabbing of Kuwait as an attempt to seek an early settlement of the Palestinian question was too clever to be accepted by the world. That it also gave to one man the control of nearly 20 percent of the oil resources of the world was bound to cause more than frayed tempers. Also an eyesore to the United States and Israel and as such to some Arab countries as Egypt and Saudi Arabia was Iraq's military machine, a stock of chemical weapons and its nuclear capability. For Saddam Husayn to have imagined that he could have got away with this all was a folly. Many rulers who, heady with power, see themselves in roles larger than they can really perform cannot see the consequences of what they are doing.

Actually, Saddam has played into American hands. It just cannot be that Washington, with all its see-through capabilities, did not know Saddam's plans to occupy Kuwait. He handed Washington with a pretext to establish its presence in the region, gain control of its oil and a vantage strategic area of the world. Apparently, President Bush has been calculating. He has chosen to follow the advice of Pentagon and others who believe that the US must destroy Iraq's formidable war machine and ignored the counsel of those in his country, and in Europe, who did not want war in the Gulf.

In all likelihood, Iraq will lose the war and US will establish to the world that it has succeeded in proving the point that a Super Power like it cannot be taken for granted by a potential regional power. The US and its allies will win the Gulf War, but it remains to be seen whether they have worked out all the post-victory sums. The US can also get stuck with responsibilities far more serious than it ever had in the region. It may also have to contend with Arab anger and future rivalries of Arab governments and also bring about an early Palestinian settlement—a task not so easy as Washington can imagine. At the moment, the attention of the world is focussed on the possible outcome of the war; it has also to begin to think about a post-war West Asia.

First Workers Arrive Home Since War Started

BK2401062091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] About 181 people belonging to Kerala, including women and children, arrived in Trivandrum last night from the Gulf countries in an Air India flight. This is the first contingent arriving in the country since the commencement of the Gulf War.

Saudi Envoy Says Steps Taken for Safety of Workers

BK2401161791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Saudi Arabia has taken all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the 5 Lakh Indian nationals in the kingdom. The Saudi ambassador to India, Fu'ad S. Mufti, has said in New Delhi that India and other foreign nationals working in the war zone have already been shifted to safer places.

Government Signs Contract With USSR for Coffee

BK2901060691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] India has signed a 160 crore rupees contract with the Soviet Union to supply 50,000 tons of coffee during the current year. The contract was signed by the Coffee Board on behalf of India and a Madras based representative of the Soviet Union in Bangalore yesterday.

External Affairs Minister Bound for Tehran

BK2401150391 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, is leaving for Tehran tomorrow to discuss with the Iranian leaders ways to restore peace in the Gulf. The spokesman of the external affairs ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that his visit is part of the ongoing process of consultations India is having within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

Minister Rules Out Petroleum Product Price Hike

BK2501095591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] The finance minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, has ruled out any increase in the prices of petroleum products. Speaking at a seminar in Bombay today, Mr. Sinha regretted that his discussions with some journalists in Bihar has been misreported. He said the economy measures adopted by the government in the wake of the Gulf war will save about 1,850 crore rupees during the current year.

Shekhar Denies Misunderstanding With Rajiv Gandhi

BK3001041691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 MT 30 Jan 91

[Text] In an interview to GULF TIMES [newspaper published in Doha, Qatar], the prime minister said that the Janata Dal-S and the Congress-I do not have any misunderstanding. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that the government would last as long as it gets support of Parliament. He said as the Congress-I is supporting the government, it has got majority in parliament.

On Punjab, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said there cannot be an instant formula to solve the Punjab problem and that terrorism is not solved by formulas but by a compassionate and sympathetic approach.

Iran

3 Iraqi Aircraft Enter Airspace; 1 Disappears

LD3001110191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] A report received by the Central News Unit states that last evening three Iraqi aircraft entered Iranian airspace. One of them disappeared as soon as it entered Iranian airspace; its fate is unknown. Another aircraft made an emergency landing on a road in the west of the country and was severely damaged. The pilot was injured. The third plane landed at one of the country's airports.

According to this report, on the basis of the declared policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, aircraft entering Iran's territory will be impounded until the end of the war.

Damaged Iraqi Naval Vessel Enters Iranian Waters

LD3001111791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] This morning the waters of the Persian Gulf witnessed intense clashes between aircraft of the multinational forces and Iraqi frigates.

According to a Central News Unit report, an informed military source announced: This morning multinational forces aircraft severely clashed with Iraqi frigates. During these clashes, one damaged Iraqi naval vessel entered Iranian waters. Steps were immediately taken by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to save the crew of this Iraqi naval vessel, which was on fire.

TEHRAN TIMES on Iraqi Planes, Neutrality

NC2901092591 Paris AFP in English 0916 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Tehran, Jan 29 (AFP)—Iran's move to allow Iraqi planes to land on its soil has no bearing on the strict neutrality Tehran insists on maintaining in the Gulf war, the TEHRAN TIMES said Tuesday.

The English-language newspaper, considered close to the government, said that Iran would resist all efforts by Iraq or the U.S.-led coalition to win its backing in the 13-day-old war.

"Walking the middle of the road between war and peace in an acutely sensitive situation as a neighbour of one of the combatants and opposed to the presence of another calls for the greatest degree of alacrity and astuteness," it said.

"This is exactly Iran's situation just now and it calls for wisdom and caution in the highest degree to preserve its position of neutrality," the newspaper said. [passage omitted]

"The presence of any number of planes in this country will as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned make no difference one way or another," the TEHRAN TIMES said.

Both Iraq and the multinational forces would like to see Iran on their side because Tehran has "a key role to play in the region now and in the future," the daily said.

"But it has been the clearly stated position of Iran that it does not wish to embroil itself although it deplores the killing of innocent civilians by the U.S.-led allied forces."

Iran "would like to see a peaceful end to the conflict even at this stage, through negotiations preferably, and more importantly it would like to see that the scope of this conflict is not further expanded" and multinational forces to withdraw as soon as possible, the paper said. [passage omitted]

Ports To Provide Safe-Custody for Gulf Goods

LD2801164291 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Zahedan (Sistan va Baluchestan), Jan. 28, IRNA—Chabahar Port is ready to receive as safe-custody merchandise from Persian Gulf Arab states, an official from the port's customs office said today.

The port lies outside the Persian Gulf waters, which have become potential war zones.

As per the recent cabinet approval, noted the official, local and foreign merchants trading in the Persian Gulf region can avail of the safe-custody warehouses at Chahbahar.

Several other Iranian ports have been readied to provide storage facilities for the merchandise of Persian Gulf merchants.

Free Warehouse Facilities Offered to Merchants

LD2701225391 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Following the intensification of war in the Persian Gulf and in order to protect existing assets in the region, parts of which pertain to Iranians and Muslims of the region, special plans drawn up by the Kish Development Organization [KDO] to afford protection of these assets, including the safekeeping of goods in Kish Island, have been put into operation.

Mr. Alizadeh, managing director of the KDO, in an interview with our reporter, while giving this piece of news added: In this connection, certain easy conditions have been taken into consideration in terms of receiving customs and warehouse charges, and the safekeeping of goods in Kish Island will be free for two months. Iran's Insurance organization will undertake all maritime services free of charge until the Persian Gulf crisis ends. He said: In order to store the goods in Kish Island, 20,000 square meters of covered warehouses and 100,000 square meters of uncovered space have been envisaged, and it has been decided to build 100,000 square meters of covered warehouses soon. He also said: Bearing in mind these facilities, merchants and owners of goods in the Persian Gulf region can benefit from the economic security of Kish and use the envisaged facilities on the Island of Kish for however long they need to do so.

Bessmertnykh Sends Velayati Message on Gulf

LD2901164591 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday received a message from his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh on the Persian Gulf war.

The message was submitted by Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Gudev who also expressed his country's desire to expand mutual relations which he said would serve world peace and stability as well as the interests of the two countries.

Deputy Minister, Kuwait Envoy View Peace Efforts

LD2401145391 Tehran IRNA in English 1314 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki discussed the regional situation including Iran's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf war, with Kuwaiti Ambassador in Tehran Fawzi al-Jasim here today.

Underlining the Islamic Republic's call for an emergency meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Mottaki asked Jasim to consult his exiled amir who was the chairman of the OIC at the time of the Iraqi occupation.

The ambassador hailed Iran's stance on the Persian Gulf crisis and promised to convey the Iranian call for an OIC summit.

National Security Council Reiterates Neutrality

LD1901165691 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] held a session this evening in the presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution. In that session at which the chairman of the SNSC [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] and its other members, as well as the military advisers and high-ranking commanders were also present, the conditions in the region were given a comprehensive analysis, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of neutrality in the conflict was reaffirmed. While the usurper Israeli regime was issued a severe warning in case it in any way decides to exploit the situation so as to spread the war to the other Islamic countries, the SNSC reiterated its total support for the Islamic movement of the Palestinian nation. It was decided that the Islamic Republic of Iran should increase its political efforts toward a speedy end to the animosities and a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Persian Gulf region.

Khomeyni Reiterates Gulf War Neutrality

LD2701115491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] neutrality in the Persian Gulf war does not mean that it has adopted silence in the face of the killing and massacres of the Muslim inhabitants of the region by the multinational forces and the Ba'athist regime of Iraq.

Having made this remark, Hojjat-ol Eslam Val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in a meeting at the Jamaran mosque before noon today with a number of the personnel from the maritime industries of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, conveyed his felicitations on the birth anniversary of the ninth luminous star of Imamate and Velayat, His Holiness Javad al-A'emeh, may God's blessings be upon him, to all Muslims throughout the world.

Hojjat-ol Eslam val Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni emphasized the IRI's neutral stance with respect to the Persian Gulf war. He pointed out the opinions of some people who believe that the United States is the enemy of the Islamic revolution and the world Muslims, and that we have sustained the greatest losses by the United States, which has plundered the entire economic resources of the Third World countries. He remarked that Saddam, too, by his assault against the IRI—the true flag-bearer in the struggle against the Jerusalem-occuping regime, and the harbinger of Islam in the region—and his martyring of tens of thousands of Iranian youth and eminent Iraqi clerics, has committed the greatest treachery against Islam and the other Islamic countries. In connection with this, the Ba'ath party, which is devoid of any Islamic basis, has done the greatest service for the Zionist regime.

Remarking that Iraq's struggle against Israel is merely for the sake of appearances, Hojjat-ol Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni assessed the dangers of the U.S. military presence in the region, and stressed: The Supreme National Security Council has voted in favor of neutrality, and I, too, support that.

Regarding the criticisms leveled against the Voice and Vision of the IRI in terms of its neutral stance, he said: The Voice and Vision belongs to the system and must therefore adhere to the system's policies. The mass media and other individuals, however, can express their opinions in any way they wish, within the framework of Islamic jurisprudence.

Opposition People's Mujahedeen Says 90 Executed

AU2901174991 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, Jan 29 (AFP) — Iran has publicly executed 90 people this month on various "pretexts" including charges of drug trafficking, the Iranian opposition People's Mujahedeen organisation said in a communique distributed here Tuesday [29 January].

The communique said those executed were frequently political prisoners.

It said the most recent executions were of 18 people in Bakhtaran (western Iran) and two in Bandar Abbas in the south. They had been found guilty of "common law crimes and drug trafficking".

"On the same pretexts", 24 other people, including two women, were executed at Mashad, seven at Torbat-e-Jam, five at Neyshabur, four at Ghouchan (north west) , 20 at Hamedan (west), one at Groumieh (north west), one at Animeshk (south) and eight in Khorassan Province, the communique said.

Majles Urges Supporting Iraq Against U.S.

LD1901153591 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—A Majles deputy on Saturday proposed that the government of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani suspend Iran's politico-economic ties with those countries actively involved in the war against Iraq.

"Every missile that hits Tel Aviv, Haifa or elsewhere in Israel is as if they are striking the White House or other American centers and shaking the foundation of the world devouring U.S.," Qorban 'Ali Salehabadi, a deputy from Mashhad said in an open session of the parliament here Saturday. The U.S. military build-up and its war against Iraq is aimed at securing its long-term interests and that of other Western countries, he said.

Salehabadi said those countries attacking Iraq intended to get a firm grip on the rich oil resources of the Persian Gulf and change the political geography of the region.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali, who represents the people of Qom at the Majles said "we would not leave the Iraqi people standing alone in this battle since if the U.S. emerges victorious it will not leave the region easily."

Khalkhali requested the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, to declare jihad (holy war) against the U.S. and its Western allies (present here).

The U.S. is not after thwarting Iraq's aggression against Kuwait but rather "this is an excuse for it to attack Islam," he said.

Majles Approves Defense Allocation

LD2101221291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Excerpts] There was an open Majles session this morning with Mr. Karrubi presiding. According to the Central News Unit, the discussion of clauses eight and nine of the Budget Bill for the year 1370 [beginning 21 March 1990] continued and, after an examination of some amendments suggested by the deputies, some of them were approved. Let me draw your attention to our correspondent's report:

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] According to one of the amendments approved in today's Majles session, 384 billion rials will be put at the disposal of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Force Logistics for use as expenditure for the program approved by the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. In accordance with the same amendment, armed military and security forces are dutybound to obtain their required ammunition and military equipment from the Defense Industries Organization and to purchase only from abroad, solely through the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, the military equipment that cannot be manufactured domestically.

Majles Deputies Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD2201105991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Speeches by Majles deputies at Majles session in Tehran—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Jahangiri, deputy for Jiroft] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The Persian Gulf region is going through critical and significant days. The attack launched against the Persian Gulf region by the multinational forces—under the pretext of repelling aggression—and the almost unprecedented atrocities perpetrated against the Muslim nations and their resources are not incidents which can be overlooked easily, especially by the Muslim revolutionary nation of Iran, a nation which was taught lessons in freedom and resistance by its great beloved imam. Our people are most certainly keeping a close watch on events, analyzing the real fact. Naturally, it is not easy for us to express our opinions or take a position on such a significant event. Before passing any judgment, however, it is necessary to answer a few important questions: Of what nature are the parties involved, and what kind of relationship have they had with us? What were the motives behind the conflict? What stance should we adopt?

One of the protagonists is Saddam, the leader of the Iraqi regime. No one can be unfamiliar with the sacred and great aims of our eminent leader. The struggle against the arrogance, in particular the criminal United States, the annihilation of Israel, and the establishment of the rule of the Muslims and the oppressed, constitute the principle aims of the revolution. It was natural in the face of such sacred aims that arrogance would hatch various conspiracies. During these years, however, we successfully put behind us all kinds of conspiracies—each of which was capable of undermining a country and governments of a few years standing—thanks to God's mercy and under the prophetic leadership of our dear imam, may God's peace be upon him, and the resistance and steadfastness of our courageous nation. The major conspiracy was that of the eight-year war, which to a great extent prevented us from achieving the principle aims, hence pushing us back. [passage omitted]

The other sides involved consist of the multinational forces headed by the United States. The nature of the United States could not be more clear to the Muslims and our nation. [passage omitted]

The United States is responsible for all the miseries and problems of the Islamic world. All the conspiracies against our nation were masterminded by the United States, and even the imposed war was waged against our nation at the behest of the United States. [passage omitted] Kuwait, and especially Saudi Arabia, which were the major criminals against the revolution of the Muslim nation of Iran, are among those in the U.S. ranks. The massacre of the Muslim pilgrims by the criminal regime of the house of Sa'ud was an issue which caused the greatest heartache of our compassionate imam, to the extent that our imam graciously said: Even if we overlook the issue of Jerusalem or Saddam, we cannot ignore the issue of Hejaz [western Saudi Arabia]. Thus, we can say decisively that the protagonists in the past few years have inflicted the heaviest of blows, jointly and unitedly, against our revolution. Therefore we cannot envisage any of the protagonists as just and sound individuals.

As for the motives behind this war: [passage omitted] The Iraqi regime's action began with the invasion of Kuwait. Was Kuwait invaded because the Kuwaiti ruler was a great criminal who had betrayed Islam and the Muslims, or was it Saddam's megalomaniacal nature which induced him to carry out such an act? Certainly the Iraqi regime's actions from the outset have not been for the sake of justice. This does not mean that we are displeased with some of what he has carried out. Even the firing of missiles at Israel, which brought joy to our hearts, was not aimed at the annihiliation of Israel, but merely part of the war plot targeted at involving us and the other Muslims in the war. The motive of the United States and its other allies is not that of repelling aggression. Repelling aggression is a subterfuge, as Kuwait is not the first or the last country which has come under aggression. How can one believe that the United States, which is the principle violator of people's rights all over the world, harbors good intentions today? There has not been a crime in the world today in which the United

States has not somehow played a part. [passage omitted] We can say decisively that Saddam provided the United States with the best excuse so that it could exert its control over the world's significant energy resources. If all Muslims unite, they will in future be able to have the first say in the world by the virtue of the oil resources which they have at their disposal.

The second motive behind the U.S. presence in the region is to prevent the collapse of the usurper rulers of the Islamic countries. [passage omitted] We have been and are anticipating the destruction of these treacherous rulers.

The major objective of the United States, however, is to prevent the spread of the Islamic revolution, and to—as they say—crush the revolution. What are we to do in this connection? The fact is that ever since the first day, the protagonists had sought to bring us into this war. During the first days of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the West sent us various messages, telling us that we should wage an attack against Iraq so as to win our rights, assuring us of their support. Perhaps if we had not rationally checked our emotions, thinking that maybe it is time we avenged the blood of our martyrs, we would have unwisely entered this war. But thanks to the wisdom of our officials we were saved from this conspiracy. We voiced our sincerity in establishing peace with Iraq, while today they are inviting us to fight from another side. [passage omitted] Our involvement in a war, in which neither side fights for justice and in which there is no trustworthy party, would be futile and unjustifiable. [passage omitted]

In my opinion, the U.S. attack against the defenseless Iraqi Muslim people and the economic resources of the Iraqi nation is incompatible with the Security Council resolution. The moment the Zionist regime launches an attack or invades an Islamic country, it will expedite the general movement of the Muslims. The Muslim inhabitants of Islamic Iran, who have learned from their eminent imam that Israel should be eliminated, will enter the scene of battle against the Jerusalem-occupying regime from an independent front at the behest of the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. We are certain that all the freedom-seekers and revolutionaries of the world will join our ranks. Our country's Foreign Ministry must show greater response in the face of the ruthless aggression of the criminal United States against the defenseless people of Iraq and the destruction of the economic resources of the Muslims. Unfortunately, all the bombs deployed in this war and all the resources destroyed are all paid for by the Muslims. The government and the Majles must adopt a more active diplomacy, and while promulgating the stance of the Islamic Republic, they must insist on the speedy departure of the multinational forces from the region. The United States is responsible for all this. Our Muslim people cannot bear to see the first qiblah [Jeruslaem] of the Muslims in the hands of the Zionists; to see the land of the divine revelation and the holy Mecca and Medina trampled by the infidels. The house of Sa'ud has perpetrated the greatest of treacheries against Muslims.

[Borumand, deputy for Moqan] In the name of God, the compassionate, and merciful. [passage omitted] The United States, that great enemy of Islam and the Muslims, the revolution and the world's oppressed, has found the perfect opportunity to inflict its last blows emanating from its long-lasting hatred upon the lives, wealth, and resources of the Arabs and the Muslims of the Persian Gulf. This world-devouring wolf has made the conspiracy against our revolution part of its foreign policies since the outset of the victory of the Islamic revolution . [passage omitted]

I am surprised at those who, until yesterday, were [words indistinct] the head of government for considering peace with that person as necessary. They were sympathizing with Saddam at the time when the fate of the resolution and a number of our POW's was still unclear. They are shouting that we should all take up arms and defend Saddam and his cursed military force against the imperialists; to fight alongside those mujahidin sheltered by Saddam who, to save their lives, have recently declared their preparedness to fight Saddam. On what grounds do they call for jihad? [passage omitted] Does Saddam accept the rule of jurisconsult, that they feel obliged to fight on his side? [passage omitted]

I believe that Saddam's purpose in firing missiles at Israel is solely to attract the Arabs and the Muslims toward himself. His purpose is neither to please God nor to liberate the Palestinian lands. I hereby say decisively that the families of the martyrs will under no circumstances concede to helping Saddam and believe that Saddam has been caught by the curse of the mothers and the fathers of the martyrs, curses which have plunged him in a hell from which he cannot save himself. [passage omitted]

I say openly to those who believe that Saddam should be supported, that if you really feel sorry for this bloodsucking, evil creature, then feel free to enlist in Saddam's army and engage in war, deploying his weapons in your self-delusive belief of defending Islam. But you are not permitted to use our weapons, as they are the reminders of the blood of our martyrs shed by Saddam. [passage omitted]

Majles Debates Palestinian Financial Support

LD2801183191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The Majles in its open session today continued the debate on items of the 1991 budget bill to implement the act on support for the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people. It placed 2 billion rials credit and $20 million hard currency at the disposal of the committee for support for the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Deputies Urge Support for Karrubi's Peace Plan

LD2901160191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Statement read by an unidentified deputy to the Islamic Consultative Majlis session in Tehran—live]

[Text] We have received a letter signed by more than 140 deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majlis. I will now read it:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, esteemed speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majlis: Following your excellency's peace initiative for an end to the cruel and unjust war and the bloodshed in the region, and decisive and serious support for the Muslim nation of Palestine to bring about the annihilation of the regime occupying Palestine, the representatives of the Islamic Consultative Majlis announce their comprehensive support for that plan. It is expected that the plan will receive a responsible and positive response from heads of government, representatives of parliaments, and from international, national, popular, and peace-seeking foundations and groups, particularly from Muslim countries. It is also expected that peace and tranquillity will be restored to the Persian Gulf region. The hands of the aliens laid on the region will be cut off and the occupation of Kuwait will be ended.

Unfortunately the UN Security Council, which should observe events and defend the rights of nations, is completely dominated by the world-devouring United States and its allies. They have overlooked the crimes of the usurping Zionist regime time and again and never supported the oppressed nation of Palestine. They are showing no responsibility now by postponing Security Council sessions to allow the United States—shamelessly and contrary to all humanitarian, moral, and international principles—to bombard cities and villages, residential and public buildings, and even hospitals, massacre the Muslim nation of Iraq, and subject the holy shrines in Iraq to aggression, causing the martyrdom of a huge number of people.

Finally, we call on the honorable president to place the peace proposal of the esteemed Majlis speaker on the agenda of the cabinet and the Supreme National Security Council and pursue the implementation of this proposal with complete seriousness, through diplomatic channels and international sources.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the Islamic Consultative Majlis will undertake the necessary cooperation with the government of the Islamic Republic to bring about the implementation of the proposal.

Heavy Industries Minister Visits FRG

WA2901165791

For reportage on the visit by Heavy Industries Minister Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian to the FRG, please see the Germany section of the 29 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Iraqi Residents in Iran Condemn Allied Air Raids

Qom Residents Protest

LD2401223291 Tehran IRNA in English 2139 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Qom, Jan. 24, IRNA—Iraqi people residing in this holy city staged a protest rally Thursday to condemn the air raids of the U.S.-led multi-national forces on Iraq and expressed sympathy with their comptriots.

The marchers, including members of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) and other Iraqi opposition groups, chanted slogans against the U.S., Israel and the Saudi dynasty.

Addressing the protestors gathering in front of the holy shrine of Hazrat Masumeh (peace be upon her), a SAIRI member denounced the massacre of the defenceless people of Iraq and called on international organizations to end the destructive war.

Mashhad Inhabitants Protest War

LD2501113291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The Iraqi residents of Mashhad took part in a protest march against the war in the Persian Gulf this morning. They called for an immediate end to the war, and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, the marchers moved toward the Friday prayers site and chanted slogans against the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region and the destruction of Muslims' facilities and resources, and condemened the expansionist policies of the United States and its allies.

The marchers then gathered in front of the Imam Khomeyni Precinct in Mashhad and, issuing a resolution, condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the presence in the region of the multinational forces, led by the world-devourer America. They termed the war in the region an illegitimate war which is for the interests of the arrogant and Zionists, and called for the Islamic countries to become involved to resolve the problems and the conflict in the Persian Gulf region.

U.S., Kuwait Sign Oil, Reconstruction Deals

LD2901125891 Tehran IRNA in English 1229 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 29, IRNA—The U.S. will own half of the whole Kuwaiti oil forever in return for the liberation and reconstruction of Kuwait, political sources disclosed here today.

The sources said various agreements have been inked between the Kuwaiti Government in exile and the U.S., according to which the U.S. companies have the exclusive right to reconstruction of Kuwait and its Army.

Paper Warns U.S. on Harming Iraqi Holy Sites

NC1701171191 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "How Tehran Views 'Izzat Ibrahim Visit"]

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, Iraq's number two in command arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking delegation yesterday. The visit is the highest-level from Iraq to Iran since the 1979 victory of the Islamic Revolution. Ibrahim's talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be taken with particular significance. This is so particularly because there is not much time left to the United Nations January 15 deadline to Iraq to quit Kuwait or face war.

The Tehran talks of the Iraqi delegation will be based on two axes. First, the bilateral relations where we need not anticipate too many problems as the two countries are determined to remove the obstacles in their way and expand relations at their best.

Last week, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's Director General Riyad al-Qaysi visited Tehran and according to reports reaching us the trip had been successful because the two sides were able to overcome several problems in the way of pilgrimages by their nationals in each other's countries. The Muslim people of Iran and Iraq will thus be able to make pilgrimage to the respective holy sites in their two countries very soon.

But the main problem, and a delicate one at that, in Ibrahim's talks with Rafsanjani will be on the Persian Gulf crisis. Iran wants, and has called for an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Political observers maintain that President Rafsanjani will certainly remind the high Iraqi official of the danger of another war in the region, a war which would not be in the interest of the Muslim people of the region.

Iran will not tolerate any geographical changes in the region, because in the opinion of Tehran this would be the beginning of a new period of instability in the volatile and strategic Persian Gulf region.

The Islamic Republic however has condemned the presence of foreign forces in the region. Tehran does not think that the Western forces led by the United States have come here in the altruistic cause of stability or political justice in this part of the world.

A crucial point we should stress as we approach the UN deadline (January 15) is that the Tehran government, as a first priority, is trying to prevent the outbreak of a military confrontation in the region. It has endeavored to do this from the start of the conflict. Nevertheless, if a war by the belligerent parties is unavoidable, it is imperative to warn the westerners that in case of war the holy places in Iraq should remain safe from any aggression. Such holy cities as Najaf, Karbala' and Samarra are the most sacred Islamic sites after Mecca and Medina (in Saudi Arabia) and any attack on them will not be tolerated by any Muslim. Islamic Iran will not be indifferent to any such carnage.

Bush Call for Mideast 'New Order' Criticized

LD1901145391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day, dear listeners. While intensive war operations are continuing, it seems that diplomatic efforts have little chance of succeeding under present circumstances. All the same, bearing in mind the catastrophic dimensions of the current crisis and war, the stubborness of both sides in continuing the war does not prevent the advancement of proposals calling for peace efforts.

In the message of our country's president, which was delivered by the Islamic Republic's UN representative to the UN secretary general, it was declared that Iran is ready to undertake every effort to end the war and provide humanitarian assistance to the victims. At the same time, the Government of Yemen called on the five permanent members of the Security Council to intervene and stop the bloodshed. Nevertheless, the way the operations are progressing and the nature of the attacks conducted by the multinational forces show the United States is seeking the destruction of Iraq's military and economic capabilities and that this imperative has turned into a question of honor [heysiat] for the United States and the West who will prevent every kind of political effort until the war reaches a decisive phase. [passage omitted]

Along with the various calls for an end to the war operations and the need for political initiative to solve the crisis, ordinary people have also demonstrated their opposition to the war in several places in the world. Most anti-war demonstrators believe the possibiity of reaching a political solution exists through negotiations or the enforcement of economic and military punitive measures. The execution of incorrect policies and measures and futile bargaining over the date for talks resulted in the loss of golden opportunities to end the crisis. Now it becomes clear more than ever that the United States was bent on destroying Iraq's war machinery in any case, as we saw how it ditched the last-minute efforts made by France and several European countries.

According to experts, the United States, which is heading the coalition against Iraq, is not at all ready, under current circumstances, to listen to the peace calls and world public opinion. It is preparing itself for the postwar phase. George Bush, the U.S. President, repeated yesterday that he would like to see the establishment of a new order in the Middle East after the Persian Gulf war—a new order in the Middle East, taking note of the military, security, and political dimensions that the United States has in mind, is the framework for an objective which the United States is pursuing to fulfill through war with Iraq. This new order cannot benefit either the people of the region or the world pro-peace camp.

Paper Warns of Iraqi, U.S. 'Tactical Propaganda'

LD2101102891 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—The U.S. is after destroying all potentials of the Islamic world and under the disguise of "repelling aggression" hopes to reduce Iraq and Kuwait to ruins making its permanent exploitation of the Persian Gulf region possible, said 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Monday.

The daily's editorial referring to a Majlis deputy's call to join Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in its war against the U.S.-led western forces said taht it is a total simple mindedness to beleive that Saddam's nature has changed. The Iraqi regime is the one that in its eight-year war against Iran repeatedly accused the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic leadership of collaboration with Israel, said the daily. today maintaining the same goal, baghdad has again resorted to the same ploy—deceiving the public opinion by deocrating its national flag with the holy phrase of Allah-o- Akbar (God is the greatest) and firing several missiles on Israel. "The question here is whether Saddam would have attacked Israel had it not been raided by alien military forces? Unanimous answer to this question would be negativer." "Iraqi missile attacks on israel are tactical and are not indicative of an Iraqi strategy to seriously confront israel," it added.

The paper cautioned the Iranian nation against being deceived by the Iraqi or American "tactical propaganda" and urged them not to doubt their principled stands even for a single moment. At the same time it urged the nation to express their wrath and anger against the U.S. and its allies with the aim to disclose the real objectives behind the large-scale presence in the region of the NATO forces ind defiance of the Islamic world.

Stressing that the U.S. and its allies are after destoying all potentials of the Islamic world, the daily in conclusion said that Iran's foreign policy should demand withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and expulsion of the multinational troops from the region.

Ministry on 'Fictitious Names' for Persian Gulf

LD2201144291 Tehran IRNA in English 1204 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—Ministry of Cultured Islamic Guidance on Tuesday requested representatives of foreign media in Iran to use the term "the Persian Gulf" in their news dispatches.

The ministry also said journalists should avoid using fictitious names such as "Gulf" instead of the authentic and internationally- recognized "Persian Gulf."

Those who fail to do so will be treated according to the law, the ministry warned.

Paper Scores U.S. on 'Arabian Gulf'

LD2201113391 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—The morning daily ABRAR Tuesday lashed out at the spokesman of the command headquarters of the allied forces in Saudi Arabia for having referred to the Persian Gulf as the Arabian Gulf in a recent statement and urged the Islamic Republic officials to take serious measures against such vicious plots.

"It seems that the U.S. and its allies in the midst of their severe confrontation with Iraq by bringing up discord sowing issues, such as referring to the Persian Gulf as the Arabian Gulf, plan to fan the flames of disputes among the regional countries and then use it to their own advantage," wrote the Persian daily.

Such statements are being made at a time when Iran has declared its complete neutrality in the war, it added.

This move could hint that the U.S. and its allies are paving the way for [affecting] geographical and political structure of the region and by fabricating such names are after damaging the historical and natural rights of Iran.

The officials of the Islamic Republic must with no delay take serious actions to encounter this plot because tomorrow will be too late, concluded ABRAR.

IRNA Reviews U.S., UK Reporting on Gulf War

LD2901163791 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 29 Jan 91

["Lack of Western Achievement in War and Need for Propaganda"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Jan. 29, IRNA—Thirteen days after war began in the Persian Gulf, between American-led allies and Iraqi troops, neither side has achieved any tangible gains, but both are desperate to increase publicity of the war.

The British and American media appear to be occupying the minds of their general public with other events, such as the flight of Iraqi aircraft to Iran and the massive oil slick in the Persian Gulf, which have been dominating television, radio and press reports over the past few days.

The Western press, after the early reports of "victories" in the war, on 16th and 17th January, altered their reporting on 18th and began to speak of strong Iraqi defences which were still almost entirely intact. This was designed to offer the general public an excuse for the West's inability to smash Iraq in the first few days of the conflict, as many had claimed they would.

The British media later reported that, even though American military officials had reported that almost all Iraq's Scud missile launchers had been destroyed, Scuds fell on Tel Aviv and later Riyadh. The next reports were that British airmen had been captured by the Iraqis and were being "ill-treated".

Over the following two days, the media in Britain and America flooded public opinion with images of Israeli civilian victims of Iraq's atrocious Scud missile attacks.

Suddenly, amid the "bad news" of difficulties faced by the Western forces, came media reports of the "liberation" of a tiny, virtually unknown island, called Qaruh. The Kuwaiti flag was raised by American troops, even though this island has long been the subject of a territorial dispute, with Saudi Arabia claiming that it is theirs. British papers proclaimed the island's capture to be a massive "victory".

The pollution of the Persian Gulf waters with crude oil at the end of last week, which was blamed on the U.S. by Iraq, and on Iraq by the U.S., was a good opportunity for the media in Britain to overshadow the lack of true military achievement by the U.S.-led coalition forces. It kept the general public preoccupied with a subject close to the hearts of Western nations in the late twentieth century; the environment.

The flight of a number of Iraqi military and transport aircraft to Iran over the weekend gave Western news circles another opportunity to distract public concentration from the actual war operations.

The Western media, meanwhile, and particularly the British who are under strict Ministry of Defence (MoD) guidelines, are also diverting public attention away from the expected ground assault. Allied casualties in a ground offensive have now been estimated at 10 percent and since Friday [25 Jan], coverage of the war has been drastically reduced in Britain.

In the small amount of time now given up to war reports in the UK, the bulk of coverage in the past four days has been on the oil slick created by Iraqi troops in the Persian Gulf, and the Iraqi aircraft which are fleeing to Iran.

As the news of the oil slick and the Iraqi planes in Iran dies down, the Western media will begin looking for new stories to preoccupy their readers', viewers' and listeners' attention.

Allies 'Prefer' To Attack Civilians, Not Soldiers

LD2901140591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear listeners and good afternoon. With every day that passes, the lives of dozens of Iraq's Muslim people are sacrificed in the flames of the Persian Gulf war to the ambition and greed of the heads of the involved governments.

Official and unofficial reports from the regions bombed by multinational force fighters and bombers reveal that, contrary to the claims of military spokesmen and the statements issued, the inhabitants of the residential areas of towns and areas in Iraq which are far removed from installations, too, are part of the targets which are being severely bombarded. Dozens of women and children can be seen among the war dead every day.

The killing of civilians in Iraq by the allies led by the United States is taking place under circumstances in which U.S. and Western military circles possess the most advanced military weapons for forcing the Iraqi Army to withdraw from the territory of Kuwait. For various reasons, however, the continuation of the war in its current form is more satisfying for the allied forces.

The Iraqi Government is currently subjected to severe diplomatic isolation because of its disregard for UN Security Council resolutions and its insistence on annexing Kuwait as Iraq's 19th province. The United States is taking advantage of that and has extended the war to residential and civilian areas in order to intensify the dissatisfaciton among Iraq's masses and military personnel.

The UN Security Council, too, has, with a suspicious silence, opened the way for the United States and the other allies in the current crimes against the region's Mulsim people. The organization's secretary general, merely stating that the current war in the Persian Gulf is not the UN's war, has turned a blind eye to the tragedy being inflicted on civilians. It seems as if there is no international law for preventing the killing of civilians.

From the military viewpont, with knowledge of Iraq's previous preparations for a land war and its intense laying of explosive traps and minefields, the United States prefers to increase Iraq's casualties in towns and villages rather than sustain casualties in the battlefield, thereby creating dissatisfaction behind the fronts in Iraq.

The United States and its allies, therefore, prefer to shed the blood of innocent Iraqi civilians in the Persian Gulf war in order to prevent the shedding of their soldiers' blood so that its prestige as a superpower and the invincibility of its horrific weapons should continue to be safeguarded under the cover of extensive propaganda.

On the other hand, one of the reasons for the mounting number of Iraqi civilian casualties is the continuation of the unprincipled policy of Iraq's leaders in the course of the Persian Gulf crisis; a policy which does not comply with any humane or political logic. In fact, their responsibility in the face of such crimes is no less than that of U.S. leaders and their allies.

At any rate, the war has also torn the mask from the face of the United States in its claims of support for human rights. The people of the world can see that the United States, while increasing its unilateral aid to the Zionist regime for the sake of suppressing innocent Palestinian Muslims, and while stationing Patriot missiles for the sake of protecting the lives of Zionists, carries out dastardly bombardments of innocent Iraqi Muslims in towns and villages.

Attacks on Iraq Seen Violating UN Resolutions

NC2901161491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0600 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Political commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Text] World news headlines continue to focus on military actions and reactions in the Persian Gulf. Two weeks after the outbreak of war, the extent of the military attacks has now become clear and indicates broader targets for the attainment of military objectives. Iraq's Radio Sawt al-Jamahir announced in one program that since the outbreak of the Persian Gulf war, the multinational forces led by the United States have carried out at least 17,000 missile and bomb attacks against the cities of Iraq and the country's residential areas.

The ferocity of the aerial attacks by the multinational forces against Iraqi cities and its residential areas is so widespread and extensive that according to many countries of the world, it is beyond the pale of the Security Council Resolutions, and is in fact a sort of contravention of their norms. An important point in this regard is that contrary to Security Council Resolution 678, the United States is moving toward the complete destruction of Iraq's economic and military structure, whereas the resolution only specifies the use of force to motivate Iraq to depart from Kuwait.

In other words, in adopting the Resolution 678, the UN objective is to liberate Kuwait from occupation, not to destroy Iraq. However, a scrutiny of news reports over the past two weeks reveals that the multinational forces are seeking to wipe out Iraq entirely, so that the way for the U.S. to attain its strategic goals in the Middle East is opened and smoothed out in this manner, and so no future Iraqi government will be able to protect its sovereignty.

Our foreign minister also warned against such a situation. The Soviet foreign minister especially conveyed his government's apprehension in this regard and in an interview stated: The Soviet Union adheres to the UN Security Council Resolution completely, but as we enter the second phase of the conflict, in addition to the liberation of Kuwait, as stipulated in the Security Council Resolution, Iraq is being inflicted with very severe losses and its civilian population is facing increasing danger. In conclusion, the Soviet foreign minister stressed the point that actions should not exceed the specified military limits or extend beyond the Security Council's approved decisions.

In tandem with the peaking of the extent and range of the war in the region, antiwar demonstrations are gaining momentum in most of the large cities of Europe and the United States. According to the news agencies, in the mast massive antiwar demonstrations in Europe, tens of thousands of people in Germany shouted slogans against the proliferation of war in the Persian Gulf. The intensity of the demonstrations and its reflection in the mass media was such that the German Government, in a reactive gesture, asked the demonstrators not to forget the aggressive role of Iraq in initiating the crisis while in the heat of their emotions against the United States .

On the other hand, British demonstrators also called for an immediate cease-fire and a political solution to the Kuwaiti crisis. Simultaneous with the second phase of operations by the multinational forces against Iraq and anti-war demonstrations in Europe, Saddam Husayn in a military posture threatened the use of new weapons against Israel and the multinational forces, which he said had been hidden away until now.

The Iraqi President's latest threat is in fact the country's official reaction to the beginning of a new phase in the multinational operations, spearheaded by the United States, against the Iraqi positions. Similarly, it can also be interpreted as a reaction to the dissemination of a news report on the U.S. announcement of aid worth $13 billion to Israel.

Apart from the above, these threats are eloquent testimony of the fact that the regional crisis has entered an even more sensitive phase.

Israel Seen Said Benefiting From Gulf Conflict

LD1801233391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Fighting the Zionist regime in order to liberate the noble Jerusalem is the strategic aim of all Muslims throughout the world. If this struggle, however, becomes a tactic aimed at the fulfilment of their unspecified and specified aims—under the shadow of dissension between the Islamic governments and nations—not only could it fail to achieve that sacred aim, but as indicated by the results seen from the extensive assault of the multinational forces, which took the form of a near unanimous decision by the international community, it seems that the persistent continuation of the Kuwaiti occupation could inflict very serious and tragic losses on the human and material forces of the Muslims of the region.

The conditions that have arisen in the region also provide the Zionist regime with a valuable opportunity. The wave of the Jewish migration from the eastern Soviet Union and the intensified suppression of the Islamic uprising of the intrepid Palestinian nation are being carried out swiftly and have been overshadowed by media coverage of the Kuwaiti occupation. Hence the general opinion of the world's Muslims, which instead of being focused on the Zionist massacres and the holy land of Palestine, turned toward the Persian Gulf region. The Arab countries of the region each took the side which suited their own national interests.

There is no doubt that the liberation of Palestine and the beloved Jerusalem are among the lofty aspirations of the world's Muslims. Any blow or harm inflicted upon the Zionist regime is a source of delight to the Muslim nations. The hatred harbored by Muslims against the Zionists is such that they welcome any blows inflicted on these criminals with joy and delight. Their wish is to destroy this malignant tumor in the region.

In the wake of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the phenomenal developments that took place in the Middle East region, the hope of liberating Jerusalem by virtue of a united Muslim movement was animated, and for this very reason the conspiracies of the enemies of the revolution—at the head of which was America—aimed at curbing its influence and reviving impacts began to be hatched. During the past decade, the conspiracy, masterminded by global arrogance and hatched in the form of the Iraqi aggression against the Islamic revolution, benefited Israel more than anyone else. The Zionists, enjoying peace of mind, set the Iraqi force and might, strengthened by the virtue of the cash and wealth of some countries of the region, upon the Islamic revolution of Iran, and employed their utmost ability in order to prevent the spread of the Islamic revolution. The extensive efforts aimed at turning the Iran-Iraq war into an Arab-Persian issue was part of the conspiracy masterminded by the enemies of the people of the region and the friends of Israel. Notwithstanding all these efforts, the Islamic revolution moved forward; the intifidah spread throughout Palestine; the policies of compromise met with failure, and the Zionist regime felt serious danger. Now the intifadah is moving toward the destruction of the pillars of the Zionist regime.

Meanwhile, the question which comes to mind is: Should we not give further thought to the impacts of the regional crisis on Israeli interests? Who is benefiting from the trend of events in the region? Israel and the Zionists, or the people of the region? There is little evidence to suggest any benefits which may be gained from this war by the people of the region, and it is most certain that the principle benefits will be gained by the Americans and the Zionists. The struggle against the Zionist regime will succeed under the shadow of Muslim unity and solidarity in their ranks. It is only through the realization of this unity that this struggle may bear fruits. So long as Kuwait is occupied and the world is united within the framework of the international initiative of bringing pressure on Iraq, and the main bulk of the Western countries take the side of the international community, the principle potential of the Muslim countries for fighting Israel will be dissipated and deflected. The withdrawal of the Iraqi Forces from Kuwait would be an effective action toward reestablishing unity between the Muslims and the Arabs. The Zionist regime has been constantly lying in wait to realize its criminal objectives and aims through the expansion of its aggressions, and the current conditions in the region could serve as a significant factor toward encouraging the Zionist regime to perpetrate its criminal acts and intensify the suppression of the revolutionary Muslims of Palestine.

Need for Regional Solution to Crisis Reaffirmed

NC2801095991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0625 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] The crisis in the Persian Gulf region has peaked, and the principled policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on the preservation of its neutrality, as well our country's strategy and sensitive location, have recently served to project Iran as one of the centers of the international effort to terminate this destructive war.

Of course, according to our foreign minister, these efforts had been initiated even prior to the outbreak of the war, and now with the sensitivity of the crisis, they continue in a more effective and intensive manner. The presence of the Pakistani prime minister in Tehran, the visit of the Syrian vice president to Iran, and Iran's constant contacts with Belgrade, the current leader of the Nonaligned Movement, are among the axes that prove the above.

During Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Tehran, it was stressed that Syria and Iran are unanimous on the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity and the unity of the Iraqi people. For his part, the first vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran also emphasized that Iran is opposed to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the presence of its forces on Kuwaiti soil, and that it will not tolerate the simultaneous presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf.

An important point in the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomacy is that, at present, the flames of war have been ignited, and, therefore, there should be a realistic effort to terminate the war as soon as possible. The problems of the region should be resolved by the governments of the region. Elaborating on his view in this regard, our foreign minister forthrightly stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to the continuation of the war and supports the amicable settlement of this complicated and dangerous problem.

Therefore, for the attainment of this objective, and as the first step, it insists on the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from all parts of Kuwaiti territory, as well as the departure of all foreign forces without their seeking pretexts to remain. It is only in such circumstances that the security and stability of the region can be ensured by the governments of the region.

Iran's frequent insistence on the preservation of Iraqi territorial integrity is based on the fact that if this integrity is jeopardized, far from diminishing the current crisis, the path will be open to future crises. It is for this reason that during the Syrian vice president's recent visit to Iran, Tehran and Damascus stressed that Iraq's territorial integrity must be safeguarded and the countries of the region must make efforts in this regard.

Also this past week, the Islamic Republic of Iran dispatched an emissary to Turkey to reiterate this important point. According to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the endeavors of the countries of the region should be based on seeking solutions to mitigate the tension. This is an issue to which the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] should attach immense importance. In his meetings with the numerous foreign officials who have visited our country recently, the esteemed president of the Islamic Republic of Iran has placed great emphasis on these key axes; that is, the need for greater dynamism on the part of the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement in striving for the preservation of the region's political geography and Iraq's territorial integrity, along with the simultaneous departure of Iraq from Kuwait and of the multinational forces from the region.

An assessment of the actions and reactions of the past two weeks indicate that the Iraqi forces and the West's multinational forces have embarked on the destruction of one another's positions on an extensive scale, and this situation is extremely dangerous for the future of the region. The annihilation of Iraqi resources and those of other Islamic countries in the region endangers the future of the national interests of the Muslim countries. Therefore in order to prevent further losses, the Muslim countries of the region should display greater vigor and should block the path to this unfortunate trend.

Western, Muslim Opposition to War Contrasted

NC2901122991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. The people's mounting opposition to the continuation of the war in the region is one of the most important trends gripping most of the countries of the world at present. Of course, this extensive opposition was present, though to a lesser extent, before the multinational forces had begun their heavy attacks and was in tandem with the dispatch of the forces and Western military equipment to the region.

Apart from the opposition that has surfaced so far in the form of violence and bombings of military and economic establishments in Western countries, much of the opposition of the people all over the world has been in the form of extensive, though peaceful, demonstrations and sit-ins. Despite all this, Western news agencies' censorship of various kinds has reduced the chances for world opinion to make an intensive assessment and analysis of these trends.

It is obvious that the staging of all kinds of demonstrations or sit-ins against the war, despite vehement opposition from all participants in the multinational forces, cannot be considered identical or analogous as regards the similarity or differences in their respective stances.

In other words, the only resemblance in all the manifestations observed in the daily-increasing opposition is the violent protest against the dispatch of foreign forces to the region and the initiation of the war. From another angle, however, whether from the point of view of their thinking or as regards the form the demonstrations take, there are many differences in the various kinds of protests.

In this regard, the most important issue is that the demonstrations and opposition that can possibly emerge in the Islamic countries, and all over the world of Islam, are conspicuously different from the opposition displayed in European and other Western countries. This is because the present opposition against war on the part of the Muslims is in line with the Islamist movements which in general strongly reject all kinds of foreign influence, dominance, or presence in the waters and regions belonging to Muslims.

It also raises a question about all the support for the puppets of the West and foreign bases in the region. Extensive opposition in the world of Islam indicates a dynamic and all-encompassing movement that cannot be confined to any particular juncture. Just as it stems from the distant past, the future of Islam and its economic, cultural, political, and military independence is also kept in view.

Therefore an intensive assessment of the welter of international slogans against the war currently raging in the region, indicates that there are many divergent points. For example, in the demonstrations in European and American cities, it is possible that they stem only from the apprehension of an increase in taxes, inflation, and other concomitant financial problems, which is why war is being condemned.

However, in the Islamic countries, the slogans and opposition pertain to deeper and more durable issues. The Muslims of the region and other Islamic countries fear that the present crisis will culminate in the permanent presence of the Western forces in the most strategic and sacred regions of the Muslims, or that this crisis will end to the benefit of the aggressive Zionist regime.

Of course, in the interim, it is clear as well that slogans in favor of Iraq are also being raised. But even more important are the intense protests against the killing of the Iraqi people and the strikes on economic installations and residential areas. Undoubtedly, the slogans being raised in the non-Islamic countries take into account mostly personal or financial considerations in each country.

Thus it is obvious that the Western propaganda apparatus seeks to agitate the atmosphere for propaganda and seeks to prevent the dissemination of those reports that indicate the depth of the opposition of the Muslim people in the region to agitation and the annihilation of the material and human resources of the Muslims.

Paper Views U.S. 'Aggression', 'War Crimes'

LD3001102391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0020 GMT 30 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its leading article today, entitled "The Necessity To Stop the War", JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI writes: Iraq and Kuwait, with all their assets and their people, are on the verge of annihilation, and the world's mass media are quite indifferent to this great crime.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI adds: Today the liberation of Kuwait has completely losts its priority and has become a side issue. At the top of the agenda now are the extensive killing of civilians and the violent bombardment of residential areas in Iraq, the destruction and annihilation of the Iraqi infrastructure and economic structure, the destruction and the complete annihilation of the Iraqi Armed Forces, and finally, the ousting of the Baghdad regime and the installation of a puppet regime in its place.

According to JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, UN Security Council resolutions cannot be taken as the definitive criteria, but even if they were, the Security Council resolutions do not stress these things. Not even the slightest reference is made to such issues. No part of the Security Council resolutions contains such stipulations.

The JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI leading article goes on to refer to the U.S. act of aggression directed against Iraqi civilians rather than the heads of that country's regime. It says that Washington and its followers know very well that the Iraqi forces, commanders, and high- ranking leaders are safe from those attacks in their strong concrete shelters, but the United States is taking advantage of the situation to carry out mass murder of the unprotected people of Iraq and destroy that country's economic foundations.

Furthermore, several unconfirmed reports indicate that the United States and a number of its regional lackeys intend to form another puppet government at an appropriate time. This, clearly, is interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and Kuwait, and no one should tolerate it. As soon as the war is over, the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people should be the ones to decide on a system of their own liking.

More important are the overt and covert efforts undertaken by the United States and its European allies to establish a permanent presence in the region. These efforts should be seriously confronted. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI adds: These are issues which should be addressed comprehensively, immediately, and efficiently.

The Security Council and the UN secretary general should be asked why, within a short period of time at the beginning of the crisis, many resolutions were issued, but today, almost two weeks after a destructive war in the region, no action at all, however minute, is being taken to assess the actions of the bestial forces of America and its allies and check them against the framework of the issued resolutions.

The clear violations and war crimes of the United States and its allies in this unjust war should be seriously questioned. The leaders of the United States and the Pentagon military commanders should be tried and condemned for these horrible war crimes. This is not a war against Saddam. It is a violent war disguised as aggression, but its aim is the complete annihilation of Iraq and securing the hellish domination of Islam's enemies over the heart of the oil-rich region of the Islamic world. Saddam Husayn is condemned for his aggression against Kuwait, and it was he who provided the enemies of Islam with the pretext, but today the violent crimes of the NATO armies against the oppressed people of Iraq are so clearly and painfully felt that it seems the Iraqi leaders obviously intend to take advantage of the situation to justify themselves.

Finally, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI adds: This unjust and unholy war, this violent and destructive war, should be stopped and countries' and nations' resources should all be focused on goals. They should focus first on an immediate end to the war, and second, on an assessment of the violations and crimes which have taken place in this war and are going to take place, all disguised as Security Council resolutions, and under the pretext of repulsing aggression.

Presidential Envoy Meets Turkish Foreign Minister

LD2101151491 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Ankara, Jan. 21, IRNA—Iran's presidential advisor 'Ali Reza Moayeri who arrived here this morning, held talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin in the afternoon. The Turkish foreign minister who said he had "useful" talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velatyai in Islambad, Pakistan recently, told Moayeri that he was looking forward to holding another round of talks with him at the first opportune time. The two sides also reviewed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region.

Moayeri is carrying a message from President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani for President Turgut Ozal of Turkey on the current situation in the region.

Turkey on 'Threshold of War' With Iraq

LD1901142991 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan 19, IRNA—Turkey seems willing to fish in troubled waters, said 'ABRAR' in a commentary Saturday.

It seems that Ankara is nourishing the hope for a massive Iraqi defeat in its war with the multinational forces and has a greedy eye on Iraq's northern territories.

The daily opined that Ankara could pursue its preplanned goals even without relying on its NATO status, as Turkey has the most substantial airbases in the region.

Ankara is presently on the threshold of war with Iraq and is awaiting a green light from Washington to attack Iraq via its northern border. Turkey's granting permission for NATO military aircraft to use its airbases is in fact a prelude to its direct involvement in the war with Iraq. The daily, however, expressed doubt about Turkey's ability to achieve its nefarious ambitions, as several million dissident Turkish Kurds live on the border areas with Iraq and it seems that the Iraqi Kurds are none too eager to be subjected to Turkish domination.

"Turkey will likely plunge into the same whirlpool that Iraq did through the occupation of Kuwait. If Ankara disregards Iraqi territorial integrity, she will lose significantly more than what might be expected without gaining anything. It is not in the least expeditious for Turkey to fight against Iraq."

Turkey Has 'Opened New Front Against Iraq'

LD2401091891 Tehran IRNA in English 0716 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—By allowing the U.S.-led Western forces to use its air bases against [Iraq], Turkey has "practically opened a new front against Iraq," said an English daily here today.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said in an editorial that Turkish involvement in the current Persian Gulf war would not only bring no victory for the Turkish statesmen but would only add to its economic bottlenecks.

"Turkish troop movements... speak of the liklihood of the involvement of the Turkish Army in the conflict."

It added that air strikes against the strategic points in the Iraqi oil rich city of Kirkuk from the Turkish territory by the allied forces "could be interpreted as an effort to pave the way for the Turkish troops to infiltrate Iraq via the northern parts."

Therefore, it said, statements by the Ankara officials that they were not participating in the war against Iraq are not justified and acceptable.

"One point is clear here: If Turkey decides to dispatch its troops into Iraq with a covetous eye on its Kirkuk province, this would certainly only aggravate the situation and also prompt a strong reaction by the neighbouring countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Editorial Terms Turkey's Involvement 'Dangerous'

NC2401160291 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Turkey Becoming Dangerously Involved in U.S. War"]

[Text] Turkish President Turgut Ozal yesterday announced that in case of Iraq being broken and if Iranian and Syrian troops march into Iraqi territory, Turkey will also carve up Iraq. This is while Turkey has acknowledged that U.S. fighter-bombers have taken off from Incirlik military base in Turkey to attack targets in Iraq.

Turkey's defacto participation in the war against Iraq indicates a dangerous and uncertain turn for the future of the region Since the first day of the Persian Gulf crisis, sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, Turkey has sided with the West and has virtually allowed the use of all its facilities and military bases to the West.

During the 8-year-long Iran-Iraq war, Ankara exploited the situation in the service of their interests as much as they could and took no measures to end the conflict.

Today too, as long as Iraq maintains its military strength, they may not openly get involved in the war. But maybe it is not far from the truth that if the Iraqi war machine is seriously destroyed, Turkey would capture Kirkuk and Mosul, two important oil-rich cities in northern Iraq and something many Turkish rulers have listed in their expansionist desires.

If Turkey covets Iraqi territory, it has to know that no change in the geo-political map of the region will be accepted by Tehran.

In any event, it would plunge Turkey into the same swamp Iraq has become entangled in and furthermore it would be a mistake if Ankara thinks that Kirkuk and Mosul will be given as a reward to them in return for concessions they have made to the West.

Turkey, in its Islamic duty, must initiate all-out efforts, along with Iran, to end the bloodshed as soon as possible and not seek prosperity in the destruction of a neighboring Muslim country as they did during the Iran-Iraq war.

Turkish leaders, ignoring the opinion of their Muslim people, have already totally relied on U.S. support and this could bear some problems for Ankara in the coming days. This will become clearer if the Israeli regime openly joins the U.S.-led allied forces against Iraq.

Commentary Views Turkish Opposition to War

NC2801180991 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Effects of the Gulf War on Turkey"]

[Text] As had been predicted prior to the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf, the countries in the region are being affected by the bitter developments in this war in proportion to the degree of their involvement in the fighting. The desire among Turkish officials to support the aggressive U.S. military forces has meant that Turkey has been confronted with greater social, political, and economic chaos than the other countries in the region. The Turkish Government's initiative to open a new front against Baghdad in northern Iraq, an initiative which will directly involve Turkey in the war, has been opposed not only by the opposition parties but also by the Muslim people in that country.

Despite the ban on antiwar demonstrations, thousands of people in many Turkish towns and cities demonstrated against the air attacks on Iraq after prayers last Friday. Reports said that one person was killed and three others wounded when police fired on demonstrators in Tatvan. A group of 1,500 demonstrators marched in Bingol, chanting slogans such as: Death to America, death to Zionism, and long live Islam. The police tried to disperse the demonstrators with tear gas.

The spread of antiwar protests in Turkey indicates the anxiety among the people about the dangers they may face in the near future.

Government spending in Turkey has risen steadily since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis and prices have risen too. This has increased the problems of people in the low-income bracket in Turkey.

In addition to mounting economic problems, the people of Turkey are uncertain about their future. The security of the Turkish people, which is one of their basic rights, is being seriously jeopardized. The political and military cooperation agreement between the United States and Turkey has converted the latter into a war zone for the sake of safeguarding U.S. interests in the Middle East and for defeating Iraq. Thousands of Muslims in Iraq have died as a result of the countless raids on defenseless residential areas in Iraq by U.S. aircraft taking off from the Incirlik air base in Turkey. Nevertheless, the United States wants to increase the number of its air bases near the Iraqi border, and U.S. military experts are working strenuously to prepare the Mus and Batman air bases in Turkey for launching air attacks against Iraq.

Undoubtedly, the irresponsible use of Turkey's military resources by the Americans will seriously endanger the security of the Turkish people. It would appear that if the Americans continue their irresponsible activities in Turkey, the antiwar trend there will only intensify.

Turkmenistan Signs Letter of Understanding

LD1501232791 Tehran IRNA in English 1807 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—Iran and the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan have signed a letter of understanding for mutual cooperation in scientific, cultural and economic fields.

The agreement, signed at the end of a visit of a Turkmen delegation, envisages bilateral trade transactions, exhibition of their respective agricultural products in the other country, cooperation in seismography and protection of environment.

Establishment of trade and cultural bureaus on both sides of Iran-Turkmenistan border and holding of film festivals and arts exhibitions are among other points included in the agreement.

According to the letter of understanding, Iran has agreed to help the University of Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, to set up a Persian language seat.

The agreement was signed by foreign minister of the Turkmenistan Republic Abdi Gholiev and director of the Foreign Ministry's Department for East European Affairs Bahram Qasemi.

The Turkmen delegation returned home Monday afternoon by land.

Turkmenistan, bound by history, language, culture and religion to Iran, is made up of what was once greater Khorasan and Khwarazem, regions which along with Transoxiana (present day Uzbekistan, Tajikistan republics) richly contributed to the development of Islamic sciences and Persian language.

The area was gradually swallowed up by an expansionist czarist Russia in the closing years of the 19th century.

Clandestine Radio on Resumption of U.S. Ties

LD2901204391 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Recently the international and external press and media, for various reasons, have been issuing articles on the resumption of relations between Iran and the United States, which are worthy of attention. In the few months following the Persian Gulf crisis, the presidents of Turkey and Syria, Turgut Ozal and Hafiz al-Asad—and recently it became clear that the former Japanese ambassador in the United States [words indistinct] has been as a result of the resumption of relations between the Rafsanjani government and the United States.

Last month, the former Japanese ambassador to the United States, in an interview with Voice of America, said that in his meeting with Hashemi-Rafsanjani and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the problems of relations between Washington and Tehran were discussed. He pointed out that both Rafsanjani and Velayati told him they are seeking normal relations with the United States because Washington has adopted a positive and friendly attitude regarding the two issues of economic sanctions against Iran and Iran's frozen assets. Also, BBC radio, in a report quoting diplomatic sources said: George Bush' envoy is to visit Tehran after his meeting with the Jordanian authorities, to talk with the Iranian authorities about the Persian Gulf crisis. Of course both the former Japanese ambassador's remarks and the BBC report have been denied by Iran. Nevertheless, despite the denials, the covert endeavors by Rafsanjani and Velayati to establish ties with the United States have continued unabated. Moreover, following the U.S. Congress' approval of a bill on buying oil from Iran and Iran's ratification of it, Hoseyni, head international affairs at the Iranian Oil Ministry, said: Iran is prepared to sell oil to the United States.

One of the main reasons for the failure of the resumption of open relations with the United States by Rafsanjani's government is the strong objections from some of the ruling factions. Rafsanjani does not want to do anything that will enable the hardline faction to rally against the resumption of ties with the United States. Otherwise, in Rafsanjani's view, there is no other serious obstacle to opening relations with the United States. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is waiting for conditions under which he can, without any trouble, improve Iran's relations with the United States. Naturally, besides the retrogressive and xenophobic forces in Iran, no one can oppose relations which are open and based on mutual rights with all the countries which the United Nations allows every state to form relations with.

In regulating relations with other member states of the United Nations, the main issue is safeguarding national interests, i.e. respecting others's interests, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and peaceful coexistence between governments, peace and its open adoption in the foreign policies. Otherwise, covert wheeling and dealing within the various factions of the regime aimed at strengthening their own positions in the government always wastes our country's resources.

The reason why the issue of the resumption of open ties with United States is constantly being raised, besides the economic and political expediences which have pertained in the past, is the result of the complicated conditions which our region is passing through right now. A bloody war is being waged in the vicinity of a long sector of our border, in the Persian Gulf and Iraq. Our country has no interests in this war and therefore must remain neutral in it; in the conflict between Iraq and the U.S.-led multinational forces, our country does not support any of the warring sides. This (?assumption) that the current bloody war is placed between the devil and deep blue sea is not without merit. Any mistake by us could bring another disaster upon our nation and prepare another hell for Iranians. Both because of the current critical conditions and in case Iraq withdraws from Kuwait—and especially if Saddam's regime in Iraq is toppled—immediately Iraq's future is seriously raised, and Iran cannot remain indifferent to it.

Another issue regarding this is the regional security plan which will be put on the agenda after the resolution of the Persian Gulf crisis. All of these issues, which are of crucial importance both for Iranians and the United States, are matters which have made the resumption of the two countries' relations topical. Undoubtedly the current covert relations will not be enough to resolve problems of such expansive dimensions. Only within the framework of an open dialogue can one hope that the interests of the state will not become subordinate to the religious interests of the leaders of Iran.

Pakistan

Minister Notes Pakistan Efforts to End Gulf War

BK2501161391 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Malik Naim Khan, the federal commerce minister who is also a member of the Ministerial Committee on the Gulf formed by the prime minister, has said that he will submit the report on his meetings with political leaders to Nawaz Sharif after his return home from abroad. Talking to newsmen in Karachi today, he said that he was very satisfied with his consultations with political leaders on the Gulf crisis and Pakistan's stand on the issue. Malik Naim Khan said that the Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Party leader Mahmud Khan Achakzai, and National Assembly member Ghulam Mustafa Khar have proposed that the Federal Legislature should be taken into confidence on the government's policy on the current situation in the Gulf and a round table conference of political leaders be convened. The commerce minister said that the prime minister had taken the parliamentary parties in the Senate into confidence before his departure on the peace mission and that the National Assembly session will also be convened soon.

On the Gulf crisis, he said that the government of Pakistan is making every possible effort to end the Gulf war as soon as possible and the prime minister is undertaking the peace mission for this purpose.

Referring to the statement by the People's Party chief Nusrat Bhutto on her refusal to meet the ministerial committee on the Gulf, the comerce minister said that he will send another team to meet her. He said that it is imperative that foreign policy matters are settled by consensus among both ruling as well as the opposition parties.

The prime minister has extended his peace mission during which he will visit Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well.

Ministers Urge Pullout by Iraq, Coalition

BK2501154991 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Federal Ministers Ejazul Haq, Sardar Mahtab Ahmed Khan Abbasi and Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani have expressed grave concern over the war in the Gulf and bombardment of people in Iraq. In a joint statement in Islamabad today, they said that Pakistan opposed the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait since Pakistan has never supported occupation of a small country by any power. They said that it is regrettable that the Iraqi attack on Kuwait provided an opportunity to anti-Islamic forces to crush the military strength of an Islamic country. These ministers said that Pakistan will join the Islamic community to resist Israel if it attacks an Islamic country. They urged Iraq to understand the gravity of the situation and pull out from Kuwait immediately. The United States and its allies should also withdraw simultaneously from the region. They said that the government is aware of the people's feelings and the prime minister's peace mission fully reflects the aspirations of the people.

Army Chief Calls Gulf War 'Sheer Madness'

BK2901142291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 29 (AFP)—Pakistan Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg said Tuesday Iraq should accept a ceasefire to end the "sheer madness" of war in the Gulf.

Talking informally at a briefing restricted to Pakistani journalists, he said the simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and of the U.S.-led multinational force from Saudi Arabia offered a solution to the crisis.

"This war, full of destruction and contradictions, is nothing but sheer madness," the general said.

Only a miracle could help the allied forces achieve their "objectives" which appeared to have gone beyond the United Nations' mandate, he added.

A U.N. Security Council resolution allowed the multinational military contingent to use force if Iraq failed to withdraw from Kuwait by January 15.

The general said the U.N. resolution had authorised the use of force to liberate Kuwait and not to destroy Iraq's military and economic potential.

Invasion of Kuwait was a trap to find justification for pulverising Iraq, Gen. Beg said adding that what the allied forces were doing constituted a violation of the U.N. resolution.

A complete victory of the allied forces would be possible if Iraq collapsed which, he said, was doubtful.

Asked what would he do if he were Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Gen. Beg said he would "ask for a ceasefire and accept peace, because there is no insult in that."

Gen. Beg, in his address to army officers Monday, also said there would be no winner or loser in the war and the United States could face the same fate as the Soviet Union did in Afghanistan.

Moscow sent troops into Afghanistan in 1979 to support the regime in Kabul against mujahidin guerrillas, but withdrew some 10 years later after failing to defeat the guerrillas and sustaining mounting casualties.

Asked if the Gulf war offered any strategic lessons to the Pakistan Army he said "we are watching the developments, but we don't know whether there are any lessons to be learnt because both sides are displaying sheer madness."

He denied his statement Monday condemning the devastation of Iraq reflected any difference between the government and army on the Gulf issue.

"I talked for peace and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif went abroad in search of peace," he said adding that a consensus emerged at last week's meeting of the decision-making defence committee on the issue.

Mr. Sharif returned Tuesday from a trip to five countries in the region where he had gone in a bid to find a peaceful solution to the war under the auspices of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The prime minister has rejected demands that Pakistan withdraw its more than 10,000 troops from Saudi Arabia.

Gen. Beg stressed that Pakistan remained neutral in the war. "We are not party to any aggression and our forces are not participating in any offensive," he said.

The general cited Iran, where reports have said some 100 Iraqi planes have landed, saying its acceptance of the planes had not altered its neutral stance. Tehran has said the planes would not be allowed to take any further part in the war.

Concerning a major cut in U.S. military and economic assistance to Pakistan, he said it would not affect Pakistan's defence capability which was self-reliant.

In an apparent attempt to dampen growing anti-American feeling since the aid ban in October because of the country's nuclear programme, he said Washington's decision was not based on any "enmity" towards Islamabad.

Newsmen Briefed About Cabinet Meeting on Gulf

BK2901154591 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The Federal Cabinet at its meeting in Islamabad today decided to send federal ministers to various Islamic countries to brief them about Pakistan's efforts for peace in the Gulf and seek their point of view and support. The meeting held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif devoted three hours to the situation in the Gulf. The prime minister briefed the cabinet about the talks with the heads of state and government of six Islamic countries during his recent tour.

Briefing newsmen about the meeting, the adviser for information and broadcasting, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, said it was also decided that if needed the prime minister himself would be undertaking his second visit to some other Islamic countries, including Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, to apprise leaders of these countries about the nature of his peace mission. The prime minister has also decided to visit provincial capitals shortly to meet the leaders of different shades of public opinion to seek their views vis-a-vis Pakistan gulf policy and apprised them of the government's stand on it.

The cabinet also decided to review the Gulf situation on daily basis. A cabinet subcommittee headed by the prime minister was set up for this purpose which will comprise the federal ministers for Interior, Foreign Affairs and Finance and the adviser for Information and Broadcasting.

Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that the National Assembly session will begin on the third of next month which will consider the Gulf situation and if needed the session will be held in private.

Answering a question, the adviser on information and broadcasting emphasized that the government fully respects the people's sentiments and feelings. At the same time, it has to keep in view the national interests. He said Saudi Arabia has always sided with Pakistan at every difficult time and as an Islamic state we have to fulfill our obligations with regard to that country.

Answering another question, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said the countries visited by the prime minister have nearly the same stand as that of Pakistan on establishing peace in the Gulf. When asked whether Iran's peace plan came up during the prime minister's talks, the adviser on information and broadcasting said that the president held very fruitful talks with the Iranian president and other leaders and their views are very close to Pakistan's thinking on establishment of peace in the Gulf. He said Pakistan has criticized Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and it respects the UN resolutions. He added that we want to see peace established in the Gulf and we are trying to request the Iraqi leader to withdraw the Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Special Flights To Bring Passengers From Gulf

BK1501123391 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] is operating five special flights today to bring about 1,400 passengers from Jeddah, Oman, Doha, and Bahrain. A spokesman of PIA has told Radio Pakistan's Karachi representative that six flights were operated yesterday and 1,650 passengers were brought from Jeddah, Riyadh, Dhahran, Doha, and Dubayy to Karachi.

Pakistanis in Gulf Countries Said Safe; 1 Injured

BK2401110491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] All Pakistanis living in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain, and Oman are safe, according to the latest reports received by the Emergency Cell of the Foreign Office in Islamabad. According to another report received by the above cell from Riyadh, Mahmud Sher Zaman, who was slightly injured in Riyadh a few days ago, is recovering fast in (al-Hammudi) Hospital. The Pakistani Embassy in Tehran has said that all Pakistanis living near the Iran-Iraq border are safe.

Pakistanis in Saudi Cities Safe

BK2401110291 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] All Pakistanis residing in Saudi cities of (Qasr al Batin), al- Khubar, Dhahran, Dammam, Buqayq, (Taleef), al-Jubayl, Hafuf, Najmah, and Buraydah are reported safe.

The Pakistan Embassy in Bahrain has refuted a news report in a section of the press that three bombs have been dropped at Bahrain, creating panic among members of Pakistani community. Clarifying the factual position, the embassy said the report is incorrect as no bombing of Bahrain has taken place.

Editorial Urges Evacuation

BK2901145091 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Evacuating Our Own"]

[Text] Where the Gulf War has caused apprehensions that it could escalate into the third major global conflict of the current century, it has created agonies for Pakistanis serving in Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries and their families, who are daily awaiting world of the welfare of their menfolk. While overseas Pakistanis in Kuwait and Iraq had eventually been able to make their way home, those in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Middle East opted to stay back in the optimistic hope that there would be no war. Now, however, according to the sketchy press reports available from the Middle East, most Pakistanis would like to return home at the earliest. There were reports that airbuses from Saudi Arabia and other countries had started the airlift of Paksitanis to the mother country but there is as yet no confirmation that any such operation has commenced.

It is the legal and moral responsiblity of the government to ensure the safe return of our citizens in the Middle East, more so in view of the fact that their dependents in Pakistan are not even able to contact Saudi Arabia by telephone to find out how they are doing. The no-information situation has arisen because of the heavy rush of calls being booked for countries in the Middle East. This only aggravates the uncertainty they face about their future because most of the returning Pakistanis will either have lost their savings of a lifetime or been unable to take them out of the country of their posting. This is a possibility that cannot be discarded even after the Gulf conflict is resolved because the post-War map of the Middle East may have changed drastically. In the circumstances, the stranded Pakistanis could be content with returning safe and sound, even if minus their savings.

The present system of monitoring the safety of Pakistanis in the Middle East is not at all satisfactory. One-line sentences in the electronic media to the effect that "all Pakistanis are safe in...", is anything but reassuring for the families in the mother country. Our missions in the relevant countries should be directed to make lists of all traceable Pakistanis in their area of accreditation, which should then be broadcast or telecast in Special Bulletins till such time as all our overseas brethren are repatriated. That, at the very least would be infinitely better than the state of suspended suspense in which the families are existing for the present. After all, it is better to know the worst (God forbid) than not know anything at all.

Iran Said To Supply 'as Much Oil as Needed'

BK2301042591 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Iran will supply Pakistan with as much crude oil as needed. An agreement to this effect was settled between Pakistani Petroleum Minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan and the Iranian oil minister in Tehran yesterday. They considered ways to improve cooperation for communication facilities and the starting of passenger train services between the two countries.

Outgoing DPRK Envoy Calls on Ishaq Khan

BK3001080991 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The outgoing ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Pak Myong-ku, paid a farewell call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today.

The ambassador designate of Pakistan to Indonesia, Abul Fazal, has also formally called on the president and exchanged views with him on matters pertaining to his new assignment.